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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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ANALYSIS OF TRINIDAD TRADE MEASURES, IMPACT ON CARICOM

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 23 Oct 83 p 8A

[Article by Mark Ricketts]

[Text]

Trinidad with all its oil feels like the black sheep, or disadvantaged cousin and sits and sulks and wonders, with all its past generosity to CARICOM members, "why is everybody picking on me".

With this attitude and the added feeling of me against them, Trinidad has adopted policy measures that go against both the spirit and letter of the integration process. And in this she has been given the perfect excuse by Jamaica for strong action since Jamaica earlier this year unilaterally and without prior consultation with her CARICOM partners imposed quantitative restrictions in the form of licensing and quotas.

In Trinidad's mind the survival techniques which have been mastered and used effectively by both Jamaica and Guyana give her every right to adopt similar measures. Such measures include a more rigid system of licensing for which approval for foreign exchange allocations will have to be first secured from the Central Bank as well as a requirement to revalidate all licences, even in those cases where exporters have licences in their possession for goods already shipped or sitting on the wharf. This last measure if not

quickly expedited could spell untold grief for several of the region's exporters.

Given the fragility of the regional integration movement and the fact that integration movements all over the world are in disarray isn't this a drastic step? Other questions which probably need answers are, why did Trinidad do it, is she justified and what will be the effect on CARICOM?

This move undoubtedly is a drastic step but if anybody had cared to read the signs it was a long time in coming. When I was in Trinidad a few weeks ago it was clear that the Trinidad manufacturers felt that they were under siege and as Clive Teelucksingh, General Manager of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association said, "it is the first time that the private sector and the government appear harmonized in their objective to protect the economy and local manufacturers."

Precipitous decline

Something else. When one looks at the seven months trading figures January to July of this year what is revealed is a precipitous decline, as against the same period last year in Trinidad's non-oil exports to countries like Guyana and Jamaica. In Jamaica's case the figure is \$13.1 million in 1983 vs \$30.5 million in 1982 despite the fact that Trinidad imported roughly the same amount

\$67.6 million vs \$65.5 million from Jamaica. For exports to Guyana there was a 30% decline.

So when Prime Minister Chamber's announced the measures on October 7 before Parliament he no doubt had the silent blessing of the manufacturers.

A third indication that such steps were afoot was in evidence at the Regional Private Sector Association meeting in Barbados on September 17. Everybody but Trinidad agreed to the abolition of licensing. The Trinidad manufacturers kept saying, "licensing is the only instrument we have to make everybody keep in line and behave themselves. That kind of talk reflects power that goes with the importance of a particular market area that others need and leads unconsciously to the recent measures announced by the Prime Minister.

Drastic step

Why did Trinidad do it? No doubt because other members states have done it, but more so Jamaica. Trinidad, like Barbados, has been seething ever since Jamaica in January introduced a regime of preferred exchange rates, quotas, and licences. And despite the Heads of State conference in Trinidad and a meeting in St. Lucia where Jamaica backed off from most of its earlier announced measures the manufacturers and many of the senior bureaucrats in Trinidad have never forgiven Jamaica for the unilateral imposition of such a drastic step.

Instead they regarded it as the last straw from a country that had pulled out of Federation, has given uneconomic landing rights to BWIA, had undermined an efficient regional air transportation system with international gateway connections by establishing Air Jamaica, had imposed discriminatory laws against Trinidad insurance companies, had introduced quantitative restrictions to CARICOM trade in 1976 and recently ensured greater loss to BWIA by competing with that carrier on its own money losing turf.

In response to the January measures Trinidad set up its own rigid system of licensing and she liked what she saw, namely a mechanism that whenever countries like Jamaica step out of line or other countries breach the country of origin criteria, she can tighten the screws much harder.

Trinidad also feels that if other countries are increasing their exports to Trinidad while Trinidad non-oil export is declining then a system of selective controls and non-tariff barriers in these countries is throwing her for a loop and she must retaliate.

Declined reserves

Is she justified? No. Under the rules of CARICOM, member states can impose restrictions for balance of payments reasons in the case of difficulties in particular industries. As Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams reminds us "such safeguard mechanisms were included to attempt to ensure that such serious violations were not resorted to capriciously or retained longer than necessary."

However Trinidad's new measures can only be regarded as a capricious step. Even the country's reserves have declined J\$1.2 billion in the first nine months of the year it is still at the relatively healthy figure of J\$5.9 billion. Jamaica's, for example, is minus J\$1.5 billion as of March this year, Guyana as of September 1982, minus J\$650 million and Barbados as of December 1982 J\$188 million.

Secondly, Trinidad's problem is clearly an overvalued exchange rate arising from the absence of adjustment in parity despite the fact of sharp escalation in factor prices, such as labour wage rates stemming from an economy powered by an oil boom over the last few years.

It is clear from the figures that it is not the restrictions in, say, Jamaica, why such massive declines in Trinidad exports are occurring but the fact that Trinidad is finding it difficult to compete. The figures I am referring to include the less than \$6 million outstanding licenses in Jamaica as of July this year. When I challenged Trinidadian manufacturers on the point that the relatively low value of licences outstanding can in no way suggest the imposition of barriers by Jamaica since a lot of the goods could be on the wharf or on the high seas their response was "Oh well we are not sending that much to Jamaica because we don't know when you are going to lower the boom on us." To them Guyana has no money and Jamaicans are so famous for their quixotry that they don't want to retool, purchase raw materials or expand production capacity in such a changing environment.

Disaster

What will be the effect on CARICOM? At first glance it will be a disaster. However, given the tendency of our governments in the region to operate by headlines and to delight in crisis management the whole situation might blow over in a month or two as exporters find ways to tiptoe between the pricks.

Another mild consolation is the fact that any time a developing country of less than two million people can spend \$41 million a year on imported whisky, nearly \$300 million on overseas travel, \$12 million on apples and grapes that country has to be ripe for picking. As one Jamaican manufacturer said, "with the new restrictions and the fact that I am not greedy, or even a lush, I only want them set aside \$2 million of the whisky money for my exports."

The third area of possible comfort is the fact that if one could get the Multilateral Clearing Facility fully operational then Trinidad in its desire to save foreign exchange might deflect some of its extra-regional trade to its CARICOM partners.

If the above do not come to pass then it will be rough sledding for our manufacturers who are already suffering from an unrealistic CARICOM rate a depleted EDF and an overall shortage of raw materials. Trinidad after all has been the sheet anchor of CARICOM in the last few years and the extent of its importance to Jamaica becomes evident when we realize that 75% of our exports to CARICOM ends up in the land of Sparrow and calypso.

CARIBBEAN ACTION GROUP IN FIRST ANNUAL MEETING DRAFTS AIMS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 21 Oct 83 p 19

[Text]

The first annual general meeting of the Caribbean Action Group (CAG), resulted in several objectives being drafted, including studying social, political and economic backgrounds of West Indian islands and defining present political weaknesses in various political systems.

The group, which met in the Dramatic Theatre of the University of the West Indies, last October 14 and 15, plans to promote a symposium in December on "The Essential Needs of the British Caribbean," and seeks sponsors for the scheme, a CAG release said.

Some of the objectives of CAG are to remove the region's political weaknesses by management training and filling of developmental gaps through the Caribbean International Management Academy

(CIMA); to establish a voluntary Caribbean Fund which will be collected by CIMA branches in the islands; to assist Caribbean governments in specific tasks through CIMA research in fields of local and international governments; to build a Caribbean management library in collaboration with the U.W.I., and to promote a Caribbean annual regional management workshop in West Indian territories,

with assistance from governments and other business or educational institutions.

The group, to appoint at least one local representative on a committee to initiate the establishment of a CIMA branch in any Caribbean island, will also "perform any other task conducive to the development of the Caribbean area," the CAG release stated.

CSO: 3298/118

LABOR PRE-ELECTION UNIFICATION ACCORD VIEWED AS FRAGILE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 17 Oct 83 p 8

[Unattributed Commentary: "The Beginning of Another Phase"]

[Text] On Friday, after seven and one-half years of divisions and disagreements, a new chapter in Argentine union history began to be written when the ranking union leaders agreed upon the reunification of the two worker organizations.

This made a reality of the hopes of Lorenzo Miguel, who had said repeatedly that unity would become a fact before 17 October.

The agreement must be considered as a political effort by the Peronist union leader for strengthening the electoral campaign of Justicialismo.

Actually the CGT-RA [General Confederation of Labor-Radical] of Saul Ubaldini, up to a few minutes before the plenary session in which the pledge of total unity was sealed began, showed itself reluctant to establish this unity and the normalization of the intervened unions before the 30 October elections. The chiefs of the CGT-Azopardo, hoped that in this plenary session, which was presided over by Lorenzo Miguel, there would be a formal creation of the temporary leadership of the worker movement and that it would be the one to receive the traditional CGT building.

Lorenzo Miguel brought about a conciliation on positions and attained his objective by wresting a formal pledge of unification from the two union organizations.

As of tomorrow, the leaders of both sectors will undertake the difficult task of structuring the provisional executive council, which will lead the worker movement until the final normalization of the CGT.

While the two CGT's have been working together toward socioeconomic objectives, the advance is now toward organizational unity.

Two different plans have been left behind. On one hand was the CGT-RA, born in December 1980, created on the foundation of a group of verticalist Peronist leaders characterized by a position of confrontation with the government. They assumed inflexible positions that were first expressed when what was then the committee of 25, which led the worker movement, ordered the first strike after [date missing] March 1976 for 27 April 1979.

The other plan was represented by the CGT-Azopardo, whose leaders, headed by Alberto Triaca, maintained positions of dialogue and search for agreements with the de facto government from the birth of the military regime. In the political area, the Azopardo faction rallied around it the union members who identified with the anti-verticalism faction--unlike the CGT-RA-- and even structured its own 62 Organizations for competing with Lorenzo Miguel.

With the failure of the Azopardo plans in the trade union and political fields, this sector made a substantial change in its strategy and began to move along the path of action for recovering lost ground.

Despite the fact that the CGT's sealed a pact of "monolithic and total unity" of the union movement, analysts believe the various alternatives and circumstances which divided the worker leaders during seven and one-half years have left wounds which will require some time to heal over.

Relegated Wage Demands

The need for presenting a unified unionism as a fundamental element of a united Peronism on the eve of elections, relegated the wage demands of the two CGT's to a secondary level.

Moreover, it could be said that such a circumstance allowed the worker leaders to "win time" and not be faced with the prospect of having to resolve new actions of protest, which of course are not desired by the union leaderships who are now involved in the electoral campaign.

The wage policy announced at the beginning of last week by the government was considered unsatisfactory and far removed from the socioeconomic reality. With the exception of a vigorous joint communique, the leaders of the two CGT's showed their inclination to postpone measures of force in order to smooth the way for the 30 October elections.

Sectoral Squabbles

However, even when the leaders of the two worker organizations abandoned the idea of actions of protest, certain indications of an increase in sectoral conflicts are beginning to be noticed.

The greatest show of dissatisfaction with wages was evinced by automotive transport drivers, who last week stopped working again, this time for 48 hours. Non-teaching personnel of the national universities halted their activities and there are threats of conflict in the textile trade union, which ordered a 24-hour strike for the 21st. There is also a growing unease in the state trade unions not affected by the government wage announcements. The leaders of the organizations which enfold public and municipal employees are going to make demands tomorrow to the authorities of the Finance Palace in a move considered "decisive" for their aspirations.

The strike announced for the 26th of this month by the bakers must also be considered, as must the unrest of other sectors such as the employees of the General Tax Directorate.

On the other hand, the agreement reached with the railway unions on matters of wages has dimmed the prospect of a serious conflict with this strategic labor sector, which had scheduled measures of force in case their demands were not met satisfactorily.

8908

CSO: 3348/18

LORENZO MIGUEL'S INFLUENCE ON LABOR BELIEVED TO BE ERODING

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 8

[Unattributed commentary: "Control of Unionism"]

[Excerpt] The Unforeseen

Almost everything in Velez happened as was expected; from the number of people attending, to the harangues of the speakers and the inclusion in the speeches of the slogans and pleasant memories of the Peronist tradition.

The unexpected, however, arose when Lorenzo Miguel had to make his speech. The strong man of the Justicialista Party and unionism received a rude blow.

Lorenzo Miguel, actually the president of the Justicialista Party, was the target of a verbal aggression, and in fact it came from that same sector that had placed him in office: unionism.

This may be the result of a natural erosion, a decline of the personalities who have been losing their currency. In this respect, it is probable that in coming years--months perhaps--there may be similar cases. However, this is not the entire explanation.

Miguel did not attain an undisputed leadership as, for example, Vandor did at one time. His position is due in large part to the alliances he forged. With the expressions against Lorenzo Miguel in Velez, there reappeared the sectors, which under varied circumstances either were, or felt they were, harmed by the leadership of Miguel.

For example, there is the combative sector of the CGT-RA [General Confederation of Labor-Radical], whose wounds because of the dismissal of Cafiero have not yet healed. The Peronist left, identified with Intransigence and Mobilization, which Lorenzo Miguel confronted at the Atlanta soccer field on 17 October 1982, has joined in the attacks. In a similar position are the groups linked to Herminio Iglesias through the Organization Command headed by Alberto Brito Lima.

All joined in, at least on this occasion, in the aggression against Lorenzo Miguel, demonstrating that as of this time unionism does not have a single master.

It is odd, anyway, that a man so knowledgeable in these matters was surprised so completely defenseless. "There was an excess of confidence," is the statement made in the search for finding an explanation for the episode.

These sources added that Lorenzo Miguel has had many consecutive victories and this in some way, they say, "led him to lose his political reflexes." Lorenzo Miguel, they maintain, moreover delegated the organization of the event to groups who were solidly loyal to him. "They did not bother to watch his back," declare those who are close to the first vice president of the Justicialista Party.

However, they also declare that while this is a rude blow, Lorenzo Miguel "is not dead politically; is not in an irreversible situation." Miguel may even have influence in the reorganization of the CGT and put together a structure there that will be faithful to him; control the Ministry of Labor and the UOM [Metal-workers Union], which will hold elections in the first half of 1984, in addition to continuing to be the chief of the Justicialista Party.

"What is in play is the control of the union machinery," said a person close to Lorenzo Miguel, who in passing recalled that there are those who today appear to be distant from Miguel but who at a certain time used his name to help a certain candidacy.

The Thwarted Debate

Finally, the Radicals and Peronists agreed to a television debate between the two presidential candidates. The desire to bring about that debate is so great that both Luder's and Alfonsín's men received calls telling them that the other side had accepted. This happened last Friday. When the Radicals and the Peronists made contact, there was great surprise when they learned that no one had actually accepted anything. It was for that reason, perhaps, and as a complement to the different positions of Luder and Alfonsín on the subject, that a Radical spokesman said that the candidate selected as moderator for the debate "did not appear very trustworthy to us."

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CSO: 3348/18

SOVIETS TO OPEN PERMANENT TRADE EXHIBIT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 2

[Text] Moscow, 19 Oct (EFE)--Argentina and the Soviet Union signed an agreement today for the opening of a permanent exhibit of Soviet merchandise in Buenos Aires, the first of this type in South America.

In a ceremony attended by Hector Arnaldo Monzon, president of the Argentine Chamber of Commerce, diplomatic representatives of Buenos Aires, and Yovis Karpov, director general of the Soviet organization Uneshtorgreklama, it was announced that the exhibit will probably be inaugurated next year.

Importance

Argentine and Soviet sources pointed out the importance the permanent exhibit will have in the development of trade between the two countries, whose balance of trade favors Buenos Aires with an exchange which reached \$1.150 billion in the first 6 months of 1983.

During 1982, Argentine-Soviet trade had a value of \$1.7 billion, which indicates the rising trend pointed out by representatives of the Argentine foreign trade entities.

Monzon declared that the opening of the exhibit in "a difficult time for Argentina" is a demonstration of the possibilities of the USSR in that market and he declared that the upcoming elections will have no effect on that trend "regardless of who is the winner."

The creation of the permanent Soviet exhibit in Buenos Aires was agreed upon in principle 4 months ago during the session of the mixed economic commission of both countries, but the most optimistic estimates did not foresee it before 4 years as a minimum.

On the Southern Bank

Slides of the building on Espana Avenue on the southern bank, where the Boca Juniors soccer club had its stadium, were shown in Moscow today, and a brochure from the Argentine Chamber of Commerce was provided.

Monzon urged the Soviet trade representatives to show "everything the USSR has in the way of machinery, technology and equipment because," he declared, "the Argentine market is large and it will not be easy because the multinationals rule in it."

Strange Brochure

The mention of the multinationals by Monzon and his clear offer to the Soviet foreign trade organizations "to break that hegemony," was accompanied by a strange brochure announcing the exhibit.

Besides the photograph of the place of the show on its cover, the brochure published by the Argentine Chamber of Commerce includes on its back cover a map of the entire American continent in which the United States is pointedly excluded.

The Soviets did not hide their satisfaction at the agreement which provides an unprecedented opportunity for entering one of the largest Latin American markets.

8908

CSO: 3348/18

POLICE CHARGED WITH KEEPING 'BLACK BOOK' ON CITIZENS

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 2 Oct 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] PARANOIA IN BELMOPAN and the sick worry that the government may soon be overthrown in democratic elections are the main reasons why the Police Special Branch is allowed to keep a Black Book with the names of people whom the government would like to suppress and discredit in the public's mind, the REPORTER learned this week. k.

Special Branch procedures require an up-to-date dossier on each such person while Customs and Immigration procedures call for a thorough inspection every time such a marked person enters or leaves the country. Other agencies monitor the mail and may even decide to monitor telephone calls.

All the activity is very much cloak-and-dagger, but this newspaper has

received confirmation of the existence of the Black Book. Among the dozens of persons listed are politicians, and aspiring politicians, certain newspaper editors and a scattering of business people.

The Northern Border at Santa Elena is well known as the focal point for smuggling in and out of Belize and most overland marijuana pass through unmolested. It was the Black Book and the fact that Ramon Vasquez' name was listed in it that caused a particular van in which he had been travelling two weeks ago to be stopped and searched. Customs officials now say they were really looking for guns.

The subsequent hue and cry at the marijuana discovery was intended not for the real smuggler who got away and whose name was not

even mentioned on the radio, although the Police are well aware of his identity, but to discredit Vasquez who has announced his candidacy for Belize City Council elections in December, 1983.

Other information received point to the Income Tax Department also being used to deny certain businessmen income tax clearance, a clearance needed for travel abroad, if they are behind in their payments. Others who support the party have no trouble at all.

Belmopan's use of the Police and other departments to exert subtle and covert pressure on persons who fall into official disfavour is regarded as an acceptable tactic by the highest authority in Belmopan. But in opposition circles it is seen as the beginning of a police state.

PRICE MESSAGE MARKS 33D ANNIVERSARY OF PUP

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 2 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

A very happy 33rd anniversary to all members, supporters and friends of the People's United Party.

On September 29, 1950, the feast of St Michael the Archangel, Belizeans, who wanted a better life, founded the People's United Party.

Over the 33 years of struggle and achievements, the PUP is the party of change for the better and keeps Belize going forward in the right direction.

The PUP led Belize from Colonialism to Independence and changed the exploitive economy to the mixed economy that Belizeans might advance to more economic development and more social progress.

As the power of its right and left engines drive the jet airliner forward, so the energy of diverse ideas, blended in one force of power, moves the PUP forward in the right direction.

The PUP's motivation and inspiration come from the wellspring of Christianity and Democracy, which safeguard the well being of our nation.

The course is charted in the Bible's Book of Proverbs (Chapter 4, Verse 27): "Swerve neither to right nor left, and keep clear of every evil thing".

Long Live the People's United Party is my wish for you on its 33rd birthday.

PRICE SPEAKS AT INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Text of Address

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 25 Sep 83 pp 3, 14

[Text] Your Excellency the Governor-General, My Lords, Honourable Ministers of the Cabinet and Members of the National Assembly, Excellencies of the Diplomatic and Consular Corps, Mr Mayor and City Councillors, Officials and members of the Clergy, the Civil Service and military forces, Distinguished guests, friends from abroad, My fellow Belizeans:

We welcome you to the second anniversary of Belize's independence. Let all of us celebrate the day here in Belize City, in Belmopan and in the towns and villages of all six districts.

May this second independence celebration be happy and memorable. May all delight to share in this ceremony, and to take part in the parade and other events of the day.

We give special thanks to all who work to make the programme a success and who contribute to defray its cost.

To the private sector and its representative, we express our thanks for the address which states the problems that challenge us and points to their solution.

We also give thanks to the many governments and international bodies, Belizeans and friends from abroad, who in their kindness, friendship and support have sent us greetings and well-wishes for the day. We need, and are grateful for their continuing cooperation.

At the outset, it is right and fitting to recall the prophetic promise which the Bible's Book of Joel proclaims to God-fearing and God-loving people:

"FEAR NOT, O LAND:
BE GLAD AND REJOICE.
FOR THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS."

(Joel 2, 21)

In the past two years, we have met the CHALLENGE TO CREATE A NEW SOCIETY as we work to build the structures of a new and better Belize.

Before independence we were a full member of the Caribbean Community. After independence we became a full member of the Commonwealth whose Head is Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom. A full member of the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement.

We have good and friendly relations with the European Community and with most countries of Central America. We wish we had these good relations with all; yet unfounded claims to our land prevent these good and friendly relations and mutually-beneficial cooperation.

To those who claim our land and cause us need less worry we hold out the hand of friendship. We ask that they respect and recognize our right to determine our future as a nation free and sovereign within the land and sea boundaries of Belize which existed even before the independence of Central America. For we wish to live in peace and harmony with all our neighbours of the region and with the nations of the world.

As we work the democratic process of our independence constitution, our foreign policy coincides with that of the Non-Aligned Movement. It is a policy of respect for the right of self-determination, of non-interference and non-intervention in the affairs of other countries, non-violence and peaceful settlements of disputes.

Notwithstanding this foreign policy, geography, history and reality make the United States of America and Mexico our natural allies.

In this period of the world's struggle for economic development and social progress, Belize became a member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Belize also shares in the work and the benefits of the Caribbean Basin Initiative--a program launched by Canada, Colombia, Mexico, the United States of America and Venezuela at Nassau of the Bahamas.

Since then the United States carried forward its programme and the work of its Agency for International Development, Canada increased its transfer of resources and Mexico and Venezuela provided their joint oil facility. Colombia proposes to increase its cooperation.

By membership in international bodies, our cooperation with other nations, and by our presence at international meetings, Belize has consolidated its international status as a sovereign nation. This status helps Belize to ride the political, economic and financial storm so that we survive as a nation.

As we enter the third year of our independence, let us continue to work and to develop the constitution of our independence and to continue meeting the challenge to create a new society.

Let us share the work with other nations to realize a fundamental transformation of international structures which would ensure a better life for all on planet earth.

This we do by joining in the global effort to achieve the objectives of the NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

These objectives are (1) large scale transfers of resources to developing countries; (2) an international energy strategy (3) a global food programme and (4) a start on some major reforms in the international system.

We are a peaceful part of Central America—a continent afflicted by the violence of civil strife. We share the anguish of their peoples and wish for better times for them and for us as we support the work of the Contadora Group of nations in its difficult task of restoring peace and prosperity in our region.

Because our foreign policy promotes non-violence and the peaceful means of settling disputes, we condemn the use of violence especially the despicable type of violence which killed innocent victims of a commercial airliner destroyed by military power.

We shall continue to work and keep our house in order, conscious that development and progress are real, meaningful and lasting when all the people benefit.

We must be and we must remain, one people, regardless of race, creed or colour. We must continue to be a people and a nation with one flag, one government, one constitution. Let us unite to defend and preserve our treasures so that we survive as a sovereign nation and a free people.

Let both public and private sectors devote our resources, energies and activities to ensure that all be afforded a fair share in the nation's wealth, that we might end poverty and ignorance and offer every Belize a dignified life.

In all our national endeavours to advance the work of continuing creation, let us obey the laws of God and the laws of our nation. For we are mindful that by faithfully doing our human duties we guarantee to others their human rights.

Always it is helpful to heed the good advice of the Bible's Book of Proverbs which guides us in our lifestyle and in our attitude to the glorious work of Belize's peaceful, constructive revolution.

"Ill-gotten wealth brings no profit;
Uprightness is a safeguard against death."
(Proverbs 10:2)

"A slack hand causes poverty,
But the hand of the diligent makes rich."
(Proverbs 10:4)

"He who tills the land will have plenty of bread."
(Proverbs 12:11)

Unafraid and undismayed we work to develop our resources for all to share. We dedicate ourselves to the creation of a new and better society. We are encouraged by the promise that holds good today as it did in early history:

"FEAR NOT, O BELIZEAN LAND;
BE GLAD AND REJOICE,
FOR THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS."

A good and happy independence celebration!

Viva la Independencia de Belice!

Long live Belize's Independence!

Report of Boycott

Belize City THE BEACON in English 24 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] BELIZE CITY, SEPT. 21: If the PUP Government hoped to gain any mileage out of its boycott of last week's Tenth September celebrations, and the whole-hearted sponsorship of Independence anniversary celebrations, then that hope was a mitigated failure.

Today's independence march of floats and music trucks, a supporting cast of PUP hardliners and a small bunch of citizens is now a big city joke. The biggest contingent of participants was supplied by the organizations pressured into marching--the BDF, Police, Prison and Fire Departments personnel, friendly societies, and scouts and guides from the black-mailed churches.

By comparison, last week's massive parade for the 10th September birthday celebrations, sponsored by the United Democratic Party (UDP) supported Committee of Forty was a spontaneous citizens' march and demonstration, and dwarfed the PUP parade by more than fifty per cent.

The parade was so small, that as it headed off Albert Street into Regent Street past the Governor General's residence, four bands were lined up "bumper to bumper" without any marchers.

Among those pressured into joining the aborted march were two of Belize City's largest alien community groups--the Chinese and Indians.

During the march, citizens viewing it from the street sides roundly booed a float entered by the Belize Electricity Board. It was their first chance to openly protest the blackouts that have been plaguing the city, and they embraced it with gusto.

So while the boycott of the Tenth of September celebrations by the Price Government proved a total failure, the boycott of the Independence march by the citizens of Belize City was a huge success.

As one citizen pointed out, "They should have taken their celebrations to Belmopan."

But political observers consider all this a good sign. It is the first reading of the mood of the city, as preparation begin for December's big City Council elections.

CSO: 3298/083

SENATE APPROVES LOANS FOR \$44.6 MILLION

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 6 Oct 83 pp 1, 4

[Article by Ruddy L. Gonzalez]

[Text] Yesterday, after a long discussion and with the abstention of opposition legislators, the Senate approved two loan agreements for a total of U.S.\$ 44.6 million, one of which is earmarked for the financing of projects of the National District city council.

Also with the abstention of opposition legislators, the Senate approved the first reading of a proposal for transfers of funds, under various government headings, for a total of RD\$ 37.2 million.

The Reform Party [PR] senators maintained their position of last Tuesday to the effect that a World Bank loan of U.S.\$ 7.1 million for a series of National District city council projects is unnecessary and, given the country's economic situation, inappropriate.

In a similar vein, they argued against a Japanese loan of U.S.\$ 37.5 million to be used for various agricultural projects in Nagua Province, because in my opinion the government had not given a "satisfactory" explanation concerning these projects.

Present at yesterday's Senate session were the 17 Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] legislators, who voted in favor of the loans. The 7 PR senators abstained from voting, and senators Florentine Carvajal Suero (who is the bloc's spokesman), Francisco Ortega Canela and Miguel Angel Jimenez Messon made speeches protesting the agreements.

President of the Senate Jacobo Majluta requested the legislators not to include in their remarks offensive expressions against the principal leaders of the PR and PRD, Dr Joaquin Balaguer and Dr Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, respectively.

Majluta defended the loan for the city council and said that the horizontal expansion of the capital had to be stopped definitively, because such expansion had resulted in serious problems in the area of public services in recent years.

Senator Luis Bautista, spokesman for the PRD bloc, also defended the loan and rejected the opposition senators' criticism of the government.

Discussion of the loan agreements lasted more than 2 hours. They were the principal subjects of yesterday's meeting of the upper house, which began at 4:05 pm and ended at 6:45 pm.

Also approved by the 17 PRD senators' votes was the loan for 8.825 billion yen (U.S.\$ 37.5 million) given by the Japanese Fund for Overseas Economic Cooperation to the Dominican Government to carry out agricultural projects in the country.

These funds are earmarked for an agricultural development project in the El Pozo section of Nagua, which will be carried out by the National Institute of Water Resources [INDRHI].

These resources will also finance the construction of agricultural infrastructure in the El Aguacate and Limon del Yuna areas of the same province.

According to the provisions of the loan, it is repayable in 37 consecutive payments at intervals of 6 months beginning in 1990 and subject to a 7-year grace period.

The amortization period for this loan is 18.5 years and the rate of interest 4.25 percent annually.

The Dominican Government is to provide a little more than 8 million pesos in counterpart funds for the projects to be carried out with funds from the loan.

This agreement will now go to the Chamber of Deputies for its approval, while the city council loan enjoys full legislative approval, having already been approved by the lower house.

Furthermore, the proposal for the transfer of funds to various government bodies, amounting to RD\$ 37,242,064 in all, adds RD\$ 4.5 million to the budget of the presidency of the republic; RD\$ 1.5 million will be used for the payment of government publicity; RD\$ 1.4 million to complete the work on codification of the national census; RD\$ 300,000 for the National Children's Council; and RD\$ 1.3 million for current contributions to the private sector, payment of salaries "and other commitments of the presidency of the republic."

The transfer proposal also envisages transferring funds among the secretaries of the interior and police, armed forces, foreign relations, finance, education, public health, agriculture, sports and public works.

The Senate also approved two contracts for the sale of state-owned lands to Jacinto Ignacio Manon Miranda and Hector Aquiles Febles Montas for the sums of RD\$ 31,960 and RD\$ 20,680. These lands are located in the Los Ríos sector of the capital.

Also approved were proposals for pensions for the following an indicated: Eladio Rodríguez Castro, RD\$ 125 a month; Matilde Cuello Pacheco, widow, RD\$ 500 a month; Raquel Goyco de Priego, RD\$ 445 a month; Braulina Romero Mojica, RD\$ 200 a month; and Juana Romero García, widow, RD\$ 180 a month.

12336

CSO: 3248/104

BUSINESS SECTOR CLAIMS POOR PUBLIC SERVICES HURT INDUSTRIES

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 4 Oct 83 pp 1, 4

[Article by Maria Elena Nunez]

[Text] The advisor to the Association of Industrial Enterprises of Herrera has said that this sector faces a "great and serious crisis" with respect to public services and pointed out that, so long as this continues, an increase in productivity is out of the question.

Cesar Nicolas Penson, who is an engineer, indicated that the crisis is gradually getting worse "owing to the fact that Herrera is an area that has no political influence. There are no voters here."

"Therefore, for many years, Herrera has been forgotten insofar as public services are concerned, and we cannot talk of increasing production and productivity without talking at the same time about services," the business leader declared.

Penson pointed out that Herrera, a zone where 145 industries are concentrated and more than 10,000 people are employed, faces a "critical" situation with respect to all public services.

In an exclusive interview with reporters from EL CARIBE, the industrialist referred to uncertainties in, among other services, electric power, drinking water, trash collection, telephone service, mail service and transportation and the effects on activities in the Herrera zone.

With regard to electric power, Penson indicated that fluctuations in voltage, as well as high costs and blackouts, heavily affected production costs.

He noted that many industries had had to buy emergency generators and that the cost of these and expenditures for fuel had raised production costs.

Nevertheless, he said, some industries used so much power that their power needs could not be met by emergency generators.

The business leader added that fluctuations in voltage also caused damage to the generators "and the worst of it is that there is no way to claim reimbursement from the corporation for the damages resulting from deficiencies in its own service."

"Regardless of what any contract may say, in practice the fact the corporation is not responsible for damages resulting from its deficient service," he said.

He indicated that the cost of electric power, "which is extremely expensive," strongly affects the final price of products manufactured by various industries in the country.

In his opinion, in addition to the fact that electric power is produced with imported petroleum and other expensive inputs, there is another factor that accounts for its high cost.

"This is that the Dominican Electric Corporation [CDE] is an extremely inefficient organization and its employees, it may be said, have a privileged situation as compared with all other employees of the nation. We understand that there are 64 centavos of additional cost for every peso the CDE pays its employees," he explained.

In his opinion, the cost of producing power is determined not only by the cost of production of a kilowatt-hour but also by "the high administrative charge for the CDE."

With regard to the provision of potable water, he noted that, since the Herrera industrial zone was installed in 1968, "there have been areas never reached by a drop of the precious liquid."

He explained that the zone's water lines are not capable of carrying a heavy flow of water, "and no one thought of connecting us with the potable water supply systems that carry the fluid to nearby zones."

He indicated that, faced with this situation, the industrialists were forced to install their own wells and to meet the costs of acquisition, depreciation and maintenance of the equipment and use of fuel.

"Besides, there is the example of a fire that was disastrous and that completely destroyed an enterprise because we had to bring water in from a place near Haina," he said.

Penson explained that the situation is aggravated by the fact that, in addition to suffering from a water shortage, the industrialists have had to supply themselves from subterranean waters located in the same areas where, for lack of a system of sewers, raw sewage is deposited.

He pointed out that some enterprises have had to spend money of purification systems because of the contamination of the underground water, while others, who produced foodstuffs, were forced to buy water from trucks.

With reference to trash collection, Penson said that this was almost a "joke, because we do not know when the last truck passed by Herrera to pick up trash."

"There are enterprises that receive an uncertain service, though we do not know how they arrange it. But really there is no trash collection, and we have the example of an industrialist who has to pay 50 Dominican dollars a month for a service that he does not receive," he said.

The business leader added that payment for trash collection has simply become one more tax and, according to him, even though the service is not provided, "payment for it is collected promptly."

He added that the situation is aggravated by the fact that, at one time, Herrera was transformed into a municipal trash dump and also by the lack of a drainage system in the zone, so that, when it rains, floods result.

Penson pointed out that the Herrera industrial zone also has serious communications problems, "and we are always being told that we have to increase our productivity but one of the most important factors in production is communications."

He indicated that there is a great shortage of communication facilities in the zone and that many enterprises have had to operate at a reduced level because they are unable to obtain the additional lines that they have been asking for for years.

"There is no enterprise here whose communications needs are satisfied. For example, if some one wants to acquire a telex, he cannot do so because there are no facilities for its installation," he explained.

He insisted that the industrialists prefer to pay more money and be able to count on effective service; "we are ready to pay 2000 Dominican dollars to get a telephone line, and we do not understand why the government has not been able to negotiate the question of charges with the enterprises involved in communications."

Furthermore, the advisor to the Association of Industrial Enterprises of Herrera noted that the crisis in the public transportation area is reflected in increased absences among employees and in tardy arrivals at the work place.

"Besides, this crisis forces employees to take taxis and, consequently, to spend more. This automatically reduces their weekly wages and an employee who is discontented and unhappy is an employee with low productivity," he added.

In addition, Penson noted that, during the period between March and August of this year, not a single piece of mail was delivered in Herrera; this was due to an internal crisis in the post office, which resulted in only

one of the four mailmen who used to serve the zone remaining in his job-- the one responsible for sorting the mail.

He indicated that, during this period, the mail piled up in the sub-post office located on Isabel Aguiar Avenue and that afterwards the industrialists had to help deliver the mail themselves.

12336

CSO: 3248/104

REAGAN ADMINISTRATION CALLED KEY TO SOLUTION OF CONFLICT

Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 1 Oct 83 p 15

[Article by Victor M. Jarez Estrada]

[Text] Hector Oqueli, member of the Diplomatic Political Commission of the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front], has defined the position recently taken in Bogota by the Peace Commission as follows: "The fact that the governmental group should state that the dialogue would be broken off if we do not intervene in its voting once again demonstrates the limitations on its capacity for action and the limitations of its role as a commission seeking peace for El Salvador."

He explained: "It is important to note that while we made concrete written proposals to the Peace Commission at that meeting, the Commission made only one to us: that we should participate in its elections scheduled for 1984.

"We believe that if it is a Peace Commission, it should have a broader outlook basically seeking peace for El Salvador because the country is involved in a civil war," the Salvadoran leader observed.

In an interview with EL DIA, Oqueli explained the FMLN-FDR's refusal to participate in the announced elections which the regime intends to hold:

"We do not reject elections as a democratic instrument; We reject the elections planned by a regime that has murdered 40,000 Salvadorans. Consequently, we believe that real elections should in a sense be the culmination of a process of negotiations and not the beginning of the process, as the government of Alvaro Magana proposes.

"The fundamental need," the member of the Diplomatic Political Commission claimed, "is to try to initiate a dialogue leading to negotiations permitting the installation of a provisional government with broad participation of the people, a dialogue ending in elections. We repeat our willingness to continue with the dialogue because a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict has always been an objective of the FMLN-FDR alliance."

In speaking of the obstacles in the way of the talks underway, Oqueli said that they are due to a change in position in the positions taken by the

governments of El Salvador and the United States. "However, we believe that the key to the solution of our conflict basically resides in the administration of President Reagan since it is by virtue of the American meddling and intervention in the internal affairs of El Salvador that the war in our country has been prolonged unnecessarily."

Concerning proposals made in Bogota by the FMLN-FDR to the Peace Commission, the Salvador official said that the rebels would remain silent about them but he repeated that one of them continues to be the need for that type of dialogue to be held in El Salvador.

Returning to the theme of why the dialogue between the FMLN-FDR and the Peace Commission has not yielded the desired results, Oqueli said that unfortunately, one of the problems with Francisco Quinones is that he belongs to one of the oligarchic families of El Salvador. "We believe that if the participants in the talks were different, the responses of the government would be different," he said.

When asked about the real intentions of the Salvadoran and American governments in accepting the beginning of talks with rebels, the Salvadoran leader said that the government in Washington undeniably insists of recognition of the FMLN-FDR as an alternative, a real force in El Salvador without which there cannot be any possible solution to the conflict."

With respect to the Salvadoran Government, the member of the Peace Commission said that its intention may be related to the fact that its position is untenable in many ways and that consequently, it needs to have a series of schemes aimed at finding solutions through sham measures enabling it to maintain and prolong the war. "At the same time, we believe that the Magana regime intends to give the appearance that it is seeking different formulas for and ways out of the crisis in this country," the Salvadoran representative said.

Finally, Oqueli was asked the position of the FMLN-FDR on the rejection by the Contadora Group of taking the Central American issue to the United Nations. His response was as follows:

"We find the attitude of certain countries in the Contadora Group, especially that of the Venezuelan Government, illogical on that point," the official said.

"It would appear that this position of the diplomatic group is not in keeping with the Mexican policy or with the actions and traditions of President Belisario Betancurt, on the one hand, and that of the Panamanian Government, on the other. We believe that Central America is an area of conflict that should be debated and discussed in the United Nations, as already proposed by the government of Mexico. If the Central American issue were taken to the United Nations positively, it could mean the breakup of the Contadora Group. We believe that in order for the Contadora Group to continue to exist, it should also take up the case of El Salvador."

STONE MISSION SEEN AS MANEUVER TO RELIEVE CRISIS

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 11 Oct 83 pp 1, 8

[Text] Salvador Samayoa, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front], stated yesterday that the visit to El Salvador by the Kissinger commission is "a maneuver to relieve the crisis," but he added that the organization still remains totally willing to dialogue with the United States.

Samayoa, who held a press conference yesterday at the headquarters of the Nicaraguan Committee of Solidarity With Peoples (CNSP), said that the FMLN-FDR "has nothing to talk about with the Kissinger commission" which began a tour of Central America in Panama on Sunday.

Samayoa emphasized that the results of the initial talks with Richard Stone, roving ambassador of the United States, are not encouraging because "the United States is not truly willing" to engage in a dialogue leading to essential agreements.

"We have used all political and peaceful means to find a peaceful solution in El Salvador and the rest of Central America, but that has not yet been possible," he said.

"The dialogue begun by the FMLN-FDR and a commission from the government of the Salvadoran Military Junta for reaching a peace agreement and a political solution could not get anywhere since it began in February 1981, when we proposed international mediation between the guerrillas and the military regime. That mediation was then requested by the Socialist International.

"Then, in 1982, the military regime rejected mediation between the forces fighting to install a new system in keeping with the situation of the people and the military junta now governing. Those efforts were backed by the governments of Mexico and other Latin American countries," he said.

"The FMLN presented a dialogue for an immediate political solution through Maj Daniel Ortega, member of the JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction], which was also rejected by the Salvadoran regime, backed by the United States.

"The FMLN-FDR has seen the absolute need for a peace agreement in the year of 1983, labeled by Pentagon experts as decisive to the struggle waged by Salvadoran guerrillas to win a final victory.

"That peace agreement has not yet come about and this makes us gravely concerned over the degree of conflict that might be caused by direct intervention by the Reagan Administration in El Salvador.

"Since the FMLN-FDR has proposed to the Peace Commission of the Salvadoran Government that the dialogue be held in El Salvador, the latter has refused to do so, claiming that they have no power to hold a dialogue there.

"The commission of the FMLN-FDR-government dialogue is made up of Francisco Quinonez, named by the right, and other politicians, including a priest of the oligarchical Salvadoran Church and one Travanino, a diplomat with no position for making agreements in the direct dialogue proposed by the FMLN-FDR."

National Dialogue

"The Salvadoran revolutionary movements also proposed to that governmental commission that a national dialogue be held with the participation of other organizations not in the FMLN-FDR, but it was also rejected by the government.

The commission of the Salvadoran regime told the revolutionary representatives that they would participate in elections in 1984, but "how can they ask us to have a process of democratization with elections when there are kidnappings, crimes against the opposition, as in the case of Antonio Quintanilla, who was kidnapped by the regime," Samayoa emphasized.

Dialogue for Peace

"The FMLN-FDR continues to work for a dialogue for peace, opposing the war-mongering, military position which the Yankee Government wants to impose on us. We shall halt the intervention in El Salvador through the dialogue of the FMLN-FDR," the political leader said.

He added that the dialogue with Reagan's envoy, Richard Stone, was totally suspended by the Salvadoran Liberation Movement because it was being used as a maneuver to see that the American Congress would not halt economic and military aid to the Salvadoran regime, which is now more isolated than ever. This is done to improve war-mongering activity in Central America, through Stone, and the political dialogue is stymied.

"We say that the United States has two options: one, to support the proposals for peace and dialogue; and two, to give complete support to the Salvadoran regime, which would mean sending massive American troop support and thereby provoking a wide-ranging conflict."

When asked about the economic situation in the country, Samayoa said that it is a war economy and only maintained by the help of the United States, which

is supplying \$1 million a day so that it might subsist." With regard to CONDECA [Central American Defense Council], he said that it is "a last-gasp measure" against regimes trying to intervene in any country in a revolutionary phase.

Guerrilla Unity

"Very solid definitions have been achieved by the union in the fight against the enemy and unity is a decisive factor in gaining the victory of our people," Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN Political Commission, said yesterday, 10 October, the anniversary of 3 years of struggle for the total liberation of the Salvadoran people against the deadly oligarchy defended by the government and army of El Salvador.

"At the present time, the guarantee in our struggle consists of increasing our fighting ability," Samayoa said. The resurgence of the struggle of the masses gives the FMLN increased strength with which to triumph over the Salvadoran regime."

The Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front has at this time greater technical and military development for the fight against the enemy, the leader of the guerrilla movement said.

6,000 Casualties

"The Salvadoran Army has suffered over 6,000 casualties so far in the liberation struggle. Entire towns have been recovered, countless war vehicles have been destroyed and large quantities of military equipment have been taken."

Why Fight?

The FMLN sets forth four basic points for which it is fighting: 1) for a new economic and social order that will ensure better distribution of national wealth, thereby contributing to the solution of problems involving health, food and the education of the working class.

The Salvadoran regime states that the FMLN is against any system of private property and that it wants to expropriate and destroy all coffee and cotton plantations, manufacturers and merchants. This is complete false. The agrarian and banking reform and the nationalization of foreign trade must be channeled and break up the great concentrations of capital which have exploited and maintained the poverty of working people.

2 -- The FMLN is fighting for a government with broad participation of all political and democratic forces, including the FMLN-FDR.

3 -- It is fighting for a new national army made based on the current army and the military forces of the FMLN. It does not propose destruction of the army, but rather, the organization of a new military power based on the current army and the FMLN. Within the armed forces, there are officials, officers, non-commissioned officers and troops with democratic thoughts who can be the basis for the formation of a new army of the people, along with the FMLN.

4 -- It would establish a foreign policy of complete national independence and nonalignment. The FMLN considers relations of our country with the United States to be strategic and fundamental, under conditions of mutual benefit and political respect for our sovereignty. For reasons of history and geography, economic relations and peaceful coexistence with Guatemala, Honduras and all the countries of Central and Latin America are vital.

11,464

CSO: 3248/93

AGRO-INDUSTRY COOPERATIVES ADDRESS PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Oct 83 p 40

[Excerpts] Abstracts from tabulations of 14 working committees set up daily with their respective plenary sessions, involving: the Federation of Agricultural Production Cooperative Associations, FEDECOOPADES, DE R. L.; Associations of Cooperatives of Integrated Agricultural-Livestock Products, ACOPAI; the Salvadoran Federation of Cooperative Associations of Agrarian Reform, FESACORA; and the Salvadoran Communal Union, UCS, and 170 agricultural cooperative associations making up the plenary session of the meeting.

Concerning Agrarian Reform - Decree 207

Conclusions

It is a process that has in some way helped part of the rural population. Although not integral, it has promoted the cooperative movement and we deem its continuation to be necessary.

The change of land ownership into the hands of those who work it is the most far-reaching step in the history of El Salvador, but it has not reached its aim because it has been diverted by competitive sectors, using the agrarian cooperative movement for political and social purposes foreign to its very nature.

Technical agricultural assistance from government institutions such as MAG [Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock], ISTA [Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation], CENCAP [expansion unknown], the BFA [Agricultural-Livestock Development Bank], and so on, is very irregular and if assistance is given, it is generally inadequate.

Decree 207 has had a positive effect, benefiting direct cultivators of the land and resulting in personal and union progress. Despite the technical problems that have generated certain injustices, it is necessary to implement it in an effective way and with all the services inherent in socioeconomic development in order to obtain positive results.

General Marketing Framework

Conclusions

The prices set by the IRA [Institute of Supply Regulation], which is the principal channel for the marketing of cooperative products, are inadequate, too low and unfair. Its provisions are very strict since they continually reject products and cooperatives are then forced to introduce them again through middlemen. This enables them to amortize part of their short-term economic commitments. In addition, there is a delay in payment by this institution in the absence of administrative controls and management of technical personnel. This permits the existence of a corrupt, bureaucratic system that gives priority to middlemen ("coyotes") and offers the producer a specific support price that is not paid.

Marketing Problems

- 1 -- Cooperatives do not have adequate marketing.
- 2 -- The low market prices for products do not cover production costs since high prices are paid for consumable expenditures, leading to tardiness in lines of credit.
- 3 -- Payment for coffee and cotton is very slow, which increases interest payments.
- 4 -- The BFA charges amortization quotas on loans granted during critical times for cooperatives, which indicates poor planning on the part of the Bank.

Recommendations

- 1 -- Participation must be granted to organizations representing the cooperative movement in decision-making bodies related to the National Cooperative Movement.
- 2 -- There must be coordination or government organizations with cooperatives in order to work out a short-term diagnosis and detect training needs. Based on this, there must be a short-, medium- and long-range training plan that will be permanently in force.
- 3 -- The subject of cooperativism must be included in programs of formal education.
- 4 -- The agrarian reform must be continued and given adequate financing and marketing.
- 5 -- The problem of the lack of land facing cooperatives must be resolved.
- 6 -- Effective programs must be implemented in order to provide farmers with adequate healthcare, education and housing.

7 -- Mechanisms must be set up in the financial institutions for the granting of timely loans with easy terms and long-term repayment.

8 -- Banks in general must work more directly with cooperatives regarding credits, establishing suitable loan standards for cooperatives and ensuring that projects of the financial institutions are carried out in all banking agencies of the country.

9 -- Fairer interest rates must be set in keeping with the profitability of crops, and specific scheduled six-month periods must be established for the payment of credits to the financial institutions.

10 -- Technical assistance must be more timely and depoliticized for the planning of crops.

11 -- The Agricultural-Livestock Development Bank, FEDECCREDITO [presumably Credit Federation] and other financial entities must research the producers' market in order to set orders for delivery to the Institute of Supply Regulation.

12 -- Financial institutions must accept in payment through the IRA all products financed.

13 -- The government should not buy grain outside the country. Rather, it should plan national production better.

14 -- Marketing institutions should establish purchase prices for products, taking costs into account, and these prices should be published sufficiently ahead of time.

15 -- Marketing institutions should inform public opinion about the mechanics of marketing.

16 -- The government should permit expansion of objectives of the INSAFOCOOP [Salvadoran Institute of Cooperative Development] in order to increase promotion and coordination in financing, marketing and technical assistance to the National Cooperative Movement.

17 -- The IRA should work out plans contemplating solutions to all marketing problems, set prices and increase its storage capacity.

18 -- The physical and moral integrity of members of cooperative organizations should be respected. Peace must be sought and human rights respected.

19 -- In conclusion, the National Cooperative Movement needs the expeditious passage of the General Law on Cooperative Associations and it should be given participation in the economic recovery, as well as a special line of credit through the Central Reserve Bank totaling 40 million colons.

San Salvador, October 1983

BRIEFS

FISH FARM HELPS DISPLACED FAMILIES--A fish farm with 30,000 fish in the artificial lake formed by the 15 de Septiembre Hydroelectric Plant will be set up by the National Area Restoration Commission (CONARA) through the action of the Departmental Area Restoration Committee (CODERA) in San Vicente. The Departmental Committee itself has been working on the organization of a fishing cooperative in the zone in order that their work might be performed with the greatest possibility of success, thereby helping to prevent decimation of the fishing banks through respect for closed seasons. CONARA continues to work effectively to help families displaced by terrorist violence in different areas of the country, with the cooperation and protection of the armed forces. CONARA is working in close coordination with special programs of different government organizations, including the ministries of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Public Works, Defense, Interior, Public Health and others. In the case of fish farming, valuable cooperation has been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, which is engaged in vast projects in different places in the country. Settlers benefiting from the CONARA program have expressed their gratitude and have enthusiastically and successfully joined in the development of action for communal improvements within the guidelines set forth by the Area Restoration Commission, an organization headed by the president of the republic, Dr Alvaro Magana, as a program of civic defense helping to face terrorist destruction. [Text] [San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 15 Oct 83 pp 4, 19] 11,464

CSO: 3248/93

ALISTER HUGHES REPORTS ON BISHOP'S STATUS WITHIN NJM

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Oct 83 pp 1, 17

[Article by Alister Hughes]

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Grenada, Oct 17:

The Central Committee of the New Jewel Movement is awaiting the result of an investigation by the Security Forces before taking final decision whether Prime Minister Maurice Bishop should be removed from the NJM Central Executive and expelled from the Party.

This was disclosed last night in a statement broadcast by General Hudson Austin of the Armed Forces who is a member of the NJM Central Committee and Political Bureau.

This statement follows three days of speculation and apprehension as to who is in charge of the country. On Friday, the Minister of Mobilisation and Labour Selwyn Strachan announced that Bishop had been deposed and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard held the reins of government but, within hours, Coard announced his resignation from the government.

That move, Coard said, was to refute a rumour that he and his wife planned to assassinate Bishop. The Armed Forces subsequently charged that Bishop is personally implicated in starting that rumour and it is on the outcome of investigation into this that the Central Committee will make its final decision on Bishop.

On Saturday, Minister of Industrialisation and Fisheries Kendrick Radix led a demonstration through the streets of St. Georges. He charged that Bishop was being held under house arrest at his official residence and called for "no work, no school, no play" if Bishop was not released by today (Monday).

He charged that Coard's resignation was merely a tactical move and that the Deputy Prime Minister is obsessed with power and wishes to take over leadership of the country.

"It is over a year now that I have been telling Comrade Bishop to look behind his shoulder because Coard was planning to betray him", Radix said.

YESTERDAY, the state-owned Radio Free Gre-

nada said Radix had been detained for organising the demonstration and later it was announced there would be an important NJM statement.

Reading that statement last night, Austin said the present situation is the toughest Grenada has faced since the revolution of March 13, 1979 and NJM had decided to give a "frank account" of events which led to this crisis.

"It has always been the policy of our party to be fully truthful to our people on all matters including the policies of the party, the state of the economy and the strength and weaknesses of our work in our country", he said. "yet, there is one matter which we have never revealed to our people".

That matter, he said, is the serious "internal problems" afflicting NJM, especially over the last year. This has not been made public before, he said, because NJM thought it vital to maintain an appearance of full unity "at all costs."

"The truth is", he said "that, during the last year, our party has faced serious problems of the constantly growing desire of Comrade Maurice Bishop to exercise full and exclusive power and authority.

The General said "collective leadership", is one of the main NJM principles. The Central Committee should make all important decisions by, during the four and a half years past, he said, Bishop has shown resentment of this principle.

"At the same time," Austin said, "he has become increasingly hostile to criticism and increasingly suspicious that other members of the leadership of the party may be trying to seize power from him."

MATTERS came to a head a year ago, Austin said, after Bishop's suspicion centered on him. The Central Committee sanctioned this but now felt it was a mistake. The general said Bishop has become increasingly hostile and suspicious of challenges to his position and the work of the party and government suffered.

"The truth is" Austin said "that Comrade Maurice's strength has always been his direct links with the masses and his weakness has been that he has never been able to adequately organise supervise and guide the work of the party."

NJM received complaints about employment discrimination against party supporters by "elements of the civil service hostile to the revolution, he said. There have also been complaints about the lack of care of agricultural machinery, the worsening state of roads, constant electricity blackouts, the "disorganised state" of the centre for Popular Education, the Militia, the house repair programme, the mass organisations, and "the increasing boldness of counter revolutionary elements."

We are not trying to blame Comrade Bishop for all the problems", the General said, "however, the major problem has been lack of strong leadership from the top and the unwillingness of Comrade Bishop to take firm decisions to solve the problems while, at the same time trying to concentrate power in his own hands".

Last month, the Central Committee held a meeting and formally established the principle of "joint leadership", Austin said, and organise "the political work of the party". This he said, had nothing to do with "who is Prime Minister" and there never was an intention to remove Bishop from that post.

"The problem is that Comrade Bishop had allowed his power and authority to go to his head, Austin said. "and he refused to accept the decision of the Central Committee".

THE DAY BEFORE BISHOP left on his recent visit to Hungary, a full meeting of the party unanimously confirmed the principle of joint leadership, Austin said. Bishop was at that meeting but, when he returned from Hungary, NJM found he still would not accept the party decision and intended to take the matter "on to the street", the General said and, last Wednesday, a rumour that Coard and his wife planned to assassinate Bishop "hit the streets".

The Central Committee learned that one of Comrade Bishop's security officers had given a sworn statement to the Security Forces stating that Comrade Bishop had given himself and his chief personnel officer, Clerus St. Paul, a list of names that morning, "Austin said, "Comrade Bishop had instructed them to contact all the names on the list and tell them that Comrade Bernard Coard and his wife were planning to assassinate him".

Last Thursday, a full party meeting discussed this matter, he continued, and Bishop spoke in his defence but the meeting did not accept the defence.

"The overwhelming sentiment of the hundreds of party members present at the meeting was that for having disgraced the party and revolution, Comrade Bishop would be removed from the Central Committee and expelled from the Party, Austin said.

This decision is to be confirmed after the Armed Forces have completed investigation of the matter.

"The rumour which Comrade Bishop sent out on to the streets tries to make out there is some sort of power struggle going on within the party," the General said. He pointed out, however, that all except "a handful" of the party membership support the Central Committee's decision on joint leadership.

Austin said NJM knows the step it has taken will be unpopular with many sections of the community but the party stands for principle and "principle for one must be principle for all".

The General assured his listeners that "Comrade Bishop is at home and quite safe." He also gave the assurance that the NJM Central Committee "is in full control of the running of the country just as it has been during the past four and a half years of the revolution.

He called on Grenadians to maintain unity to ensure that "imperialism" does not take advantage of "this movement of difficulty", and said that "in keeping with the overwhelming desire of our people, the NJM is still making every effort to settle this problem within our party".

FIRST PUBLIC HEARINGS ON NEW CONSTITUTION SCHEDULED

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 83 p 20

[Article by Alister Hughes]

[Text]

St. GEORGE'S, Grenada, Oct. 8:

The Commission appointed by the People's Revolutionary Government to prepare a draft constitution for Grenada has fixed two days for the first public hearings.

Radio Free Grenada announced today that the Commission will receive written and oral suggestions from the public on October 29 and November 11.

Appointment of this commission was announced officially on June 4. The chairman is Alan Alexander, a Trinidad barrister, and four other persons serve with him on this body.

They are Jamaica-born Richard Hart, Grenada's Attorney-General and Di-

rector of Public Prosecutions; Ashley Taylor, Grenadian barrister, who is legal adviser to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Thaddeus McIwen, acting president of the Grenada Union of Teachers, and Merle Collins of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PRG said McIwen and Collins were selected, respectively, by the trade union movement and mass organisations.

The terms of reference of the Commission call for production of a draft constitution within two years and in performing its task the Commission must steel to certain stated "guiding principles upon which the Grenada Revolution is based."

These principles, as set out by the PRG, include "national unity" and "the

concept of popular democracy should be reflected in the provisions of the constitution whereby the structure therein contained shall be designed to facilitate continuous popular involvement."

"Something more meaningful is required," said the PRG, "than the illusions of popular control by the right merely to enter a polling booth once or twice every four or five years."

The draft constitution must provide also for "a trenchment of the principles of public accountability including the right of recall."

The draft constitution now to be prepared will be submitted in a referendum for approval by the people of Grenada.

CSO: 3298/119

NATIONAL POLICE DIRECTOR INITIATES ANTICORRUPTION CAMPAIGN

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Oct 83 p 3

[Text] An intense anticorruption campaign in the ranks of the national police was initiated by Col Hector Rafael Bol de la Cruz, director of said institution, who revealed that 23 agents who had been extorting transport workers were discharged from duty and held for trial in the courts of justice of this capital.

This measure, it was said, will be observed in all the police force and in the interior of the country, where instructions have been given for the department heads to demand responsibility and seriousness from the policemen under their command.

According to the statements made by Col Bol de la Cruz, no longer will policemen in the streets be allowed to become "rulers over people's tranquility."

Recently, he said, it was verified that 13 policemen on duty in this capital were acting illegally against transport workers, and they were discharged and consigned to the courts of justice.

Any policeman who forgets the most elementary rules of education, honesty and work will be discharged, no matter what his rank and position, the director of police asserted.

Internal Investigations

It was also established that the Internal Operations section of the National Police will no longer carry out street patrol duties and will only be in charge of investigating those accusations brought against policemen and police chiefs. This section had been created precisely to carry out these duties, but in the last few months it was operating in the streets, which prevented it from learning about the accusations against members of the national police force.

9907

CSO: 3248/55

SUBVERSIVE CACHES YIELD \$4 MILLION IN SUPPLIES

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Sep 83 p 8

[Text] The Guatemalan Army has seized over 4 million quetzals worth of weapons, food, clothing, medicines and other items from the subversive groups that operate in different parts of the republic, said Col Djalma Dominguez, the army's chief of public relations.

In the department of Chimaltenango alone, subversive encampments where the insurgents had installed a number of factories to produce uniforms, using sewing machines and fabric coming from abroad, have been disbanded. The figure has been calculated at 2 million in Chimaltenango alone, not counting medicines and food.

This figure of 4 million quetzals, said Col Dominguez, represents an incalculable loss to them, since just the loss of a rifle of the power of the M-16, a bazooka capable of destroying tanks or other armored vehicles, the deadly M-79 grenades, or even the 5.56 mm cartridges they use extensively in the mountains demoralizes them when they have to face the army patrols.

The loss of a food supply depot makes them resort immediately to the village nearest to their center of operations, and for this reason the people, especially those from the high plateau, have been cooperating tremendously with the army patrols in order to fight the subversives.

We are at a point where the government has given the subversives the opportunity to return to normal life under the promise of not taking reprisals against anyone. The amnesty decree for this purpose can be interpreted in many ways, and to be truthful many avail themselves of the church, the Red Cross and other institutions to ensure their future.

For this reason it is with great surprise that one sees how the so-called "commanders" in this mobile organization, that is to say, the Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP], have given up subversion and have taken protection under the amnesty decree in force.

Numerous collaborators follow after them, and it is good to see how the desire exists to abandon the sterile struggle that bleeds the Guatemalans. We hope that this is understood, since we are continuing the pursuit of those who remain outside the law.

BRIEFS

LOW INFLATION RATE--During 1982 Guatemala had the lowest inflation rate, for that period, of any of its most important business partners, the Bank of Guatemala reported today. This represents a satisfactory condition, it was pointed out, inasmuch as when a country's inflation is either low or reasonably similar to the inflation rate of its most important business partners, it is within safe limits. To the extent that the inflation rate of a country is above the inflation rate of its business partners, it might be advantageous for that country to maintain fluctuating types of exchange as an alternative in order to reduce automatically the differences in the inflation rates. It was ascertained that the experiences of the last few years do not indicate that countries with floating currency have, by virtue of this fact alone, materially reduced their inflation rates below the rates that prevailed at the time when they had a fixed type of exchange. On the contrary the countries that have reduced their inflation rates have accomplished this by putting into practice energetic, comprehensive programs of economic policy, as in the case of Guatemala. [Text] [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 29 Sep 83 pp 1-2] 9907

VOTER REGISTRATION--The Supreme Electoral Court expects that by the month of May of the coming year more than one million citizens will be duly registered and ready to attend elections, according to statements issued by said organization during a press conference given yesterday at the presidential palace. The leaders of the organization in question pointed out that according to the time schedule established, the registration of citizens will begin during the first few days of next November. This means that they will have a period of 7 months to make up the respective lists, based on identity cards. In order to verify the authenticity of these documents (identity cards), copies of the vouchers will be sent to the municipalities where they were issued. The city governments will certify whether the identity cards are fraudulent or authentic. The procedure will be carried out quickly so that by May at the latest, a million or a million and a half citizens will have been registered. The cooperation of the municipalities and of the citizens themselves is expected, it was said. [Text] [Guatemala City, PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 1 Oct 83 p 4] 9907

ARREST WARRANTS FOR GUERRILLA RECRUITERS INCLUDE OFFICIAL

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 5 Oct 83 p 36

[Text] Yesterday afternoon the First Criminal Court issued arrest warrants against four persons, including Miguel Angel Ortiz Ruiz, a Christian Democrat official. The police indicated that the four were responsible for recruiting elements for the guerrillas.

Jose Maria Gomez Bustillo, Miguel Angel Cabrera Tejeda and Florencio Molina Ramirez, who in turn implicated Miguel Angel Ortiz Ruiz, only to make a retraction later, presented themselves yesterday before Judge Francisco Daniel Gomez Bueso to hear the charge.

It Is Ironic

According to the accused, the charge names the crime "rebelliousness against the state," and after hearing it, all declared themselves innocent.

Miguel Angel Ortiz, who was presented the previous week by the investigatory police after practically having been abducted, said that it is ironic that he was charged with the crime of "rebellion," when supposedly on the date of the alleged action, which is shown to be November 1981, he was organizing the elections which led to the country's current government.

"I have just presented an appeal of restoration, and subsidiarily I have appealed to the Appellate Court. And I am confident that if there is respect for law in this country and there is a guarantee of due process, I will come away free of this entire incident in which they have involved me," he stated.

"We are now going to initiate judicial proceedings, and I am going to show that I am innocent, as I have declared on all of these occasions," he added.

Finally, he stated that he is surprised by the attitude of Judge Gomez Bueso, who passed judgment, "since he did not take into consideration the statements of the principal witness, Florencio Molina, who always stated that he had named me because of the constant pressures to which he was submitted by the police."

Torture

On leaving the courtroom, Molina Ramirez, in turn, said that both he and Ortiz are innocent. "If I said something previously to the police, it was due to the torture to which I was submitted, and I can prove that with the bruises that I have over my entire body," he asserted.

He also indicated that he will appeal to the Supreme Court of Justice, for "I am innocent, as I stated during the 6 days of the investigative process."

Meanwhile, Jose Maria Gomez Bustillo, as in the case of his other companions, expressed "indignation" about the judgment, indicating that he will appeal to the state's highest courts to have his case examined.

Likewise, Miguel Angel Cabrera Tejeda stated, "I am innocent. God knows it because He is very great, and therefore I am not worried, because with His help and the confidence that I still have in justice my innocence will be proven in the Supreme Court of Justice."

What Led to the Arrests

As will be remembered, Miguel Angel Ortiz disappeared in this capital last Friday 23 September, a fact which the Christian Democrats attribute to the state security forces. Their version indicated that the Christian Democrat and assistant chief of the Electoral Department of the Elections Tribunal had been intercepted by unknown persons on the highway near the exit Valle de Angeles, between the Izaguirre and 14 de Marzo colonies.

Despite the fact this his family looked for him diligently in the state security offices, the response was that "we know nothing of him."

Nevertheless, on Tuesday 27 September, Ortiz was transferred from the cells of the National Directorate of Investigations [DNI] to the courts, along with Gomez Bustillo, Cabrera Tejeda and Molina Ramirez, who had been captured by the police under the accusation of being recruiters of future guerrillas.

According to information divulged that same day, Molina Ramirez had indicated Ortiz as the ringleader of the subversive activities, and therefore his family members deduced that the DNI had him in custody since the day of his disappearance.

His family charged that constitutional and individual guarantees had been violated, as their appeal of habeas corpus before the Supreme Court of Justice was unproductive and the state security offices denied his arrest.

On 27 September, the four persons alleged to be responsible for recruiting subversives were transferred to the First Criminal Court so that they could appear before Judge Gomez Bueso for the investigatory process during the legal period of 6 days.

It was not until yesterday afternoon that Gomez Bueso informed the detained persons that he had found evidence against them and was issuing warrants for their arrest.

STATEMENT OF MINISTER ON REDUCED UNEMPLOYMENT STIRS CONTROVERSY

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Oct 83 p 26

[Article by Guillermo Castellanos Enamorado]

[Text] The leaders of the labor organizations appeared to be totally confounded yesterday in view of the statements by Labor Minister Dario Humberto Montes, who asserted that "unemployment is declining in Honduras."

"We do not know where Minister Montes got that," answered the labor leaders when asked about that statement by LA TRIBUNA. They said immediately that there is no truth to any of that, since there has been no reduction in the number of unemployed, which is near 1 million Hondurans.

To be sure, they put forward, it is true that there has been an end to the rising rate of factory closings and temporary closings of unemployment centers, although it is not even known whether or not those who were dismissed were rehired.

On the Contrary

Ignacio Adan Benitez, president of the Central Federation of Unions of Free Honduran Workers and a member of the board of directors of the Office of Honduran Workers, stated that "we are very surprised at the assertion that unemployment is diminishing in the country."

"We think that the number of unemployed is increasing rather than decreasing, because to the number who had been laid off one must add those who are about to lose their jobs," he pointed out.

He declared that "when employers make requests to the Labor Ministry to suspend work, the requests are approved immediately, leaving the workers completely deprived even of their social contributions and wages already earned."

"We have to go from court to court and even to the Supreme Court of Justice, crying, so that the workers will be paid what they are still owed after the work suspensions," asserted Benítez.

Partiality

He was categorical in saying that "the Labor Ministry is not functioning at any of the levels of the officials comprising it, because we have seen the total partiality that exists in favor of employers, and the private sector avails itself of that to continue to throw workers out on the street, with no guarantee of their rights.

"If Minister Montes says that unemployment is declining, I have to contradict him, because that is not true," emphasized Benítez.

Covering the Sun with a Finger

Felicitto Avila, president of the General Central Organization of Workers, was of the opinion that "to assert that the level of unemployment is declining in the country is to want to cover up the sun with a finger.

"If we go to the factories and other labor centers, we realize that such an assertion is not correct, because there we see the crowds of people seeking jobs," he added.

Avila acknowledged that what has declined is the number of requests for layoffs by private enterprise, but that does not mean that the number of [unemployed] workers is also declining.

Stabilization

That detail indicates only that enterprises are entering a phase of stabilization, which in no way indicates that the number of unemployed is diminishing.

The enterprises are not even reabsorbing laid-off workers, observed Avila, which indicates that instead they are loading the work on those remaining after the cuts were made.

He stated that if in reality the level of unemployment were declining, then the approximately 1 million unemployed that we know have would be declining, and that, honestly, is not the case.

He likewise pointed out that if the requests for layoffs diminish, by no means does that mean that thousands and thousands of workers are being employed who are now seeking work.

"It would be another matter if we knew that there had been an increase in the number of sources of work. Then we would indeed be able to say that the level of unemployment is declining, but as long as that does not happen, what the minister said will not be correct," he emphasized.

If Only It Were True

"I honestly do not know on what basis Minister Montes made that assertion," he stated, "an assertion that we really wish were true, but which lamentably is not reality."

"On the contrary," indicated Avila, "in this area of unemployment, the facts in the country are different."

Not Even Static

"Frankly, I disagree with the judgments stated by Minister of Labor Dario Humberto Montes," declared Napoleon Acevedo Granados, president of the Sole Federation of Honduran Workers.

Because of the factory closings, the level of unemployment cannot even remain static, much less decline, inasmuch as there are other factors besides the one mentioned that prevent that from happening, added the leader.

To begin with, he observed, there has been no solution to the problem of those who have been dismissed; thousands of workers are out of work, both in private enterprise as well as in the public sector.

"None less than Max Gil Santos, Civil Service director, was recently giving out some information on the employees who have been dismissed by the liberal regime. That is one phenomenon," he said, "but there are others that are added to the foregoing."

Agrarian Reform

Acevedo reported that there is no profound agrarian reform that might check the high levels of migration from the countryside to the city, a problem that he considers to be the heart of this entire situation.

On the other hand, he explained, "we have the problem of those reaching the age of active participation in the labor market as workers. These people have no jobs, considering the difficulty of finding work in this country.

"Then we have underemployment, that is, those who live by selling slices of watermelon or various types of fruit on the fringes of the markets; they are another group of underemployed that is part of the situation," he pointed out.

Neither did he leave out those who lost their jobs in small industry through the closing of their places of work, which could be "a magnificent branch for providing jobs."

9746

CSO: 3248/103

PRESIDENT DELIVERS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Sep 83 p 7

[Text] My fellow countrymen:

With that nostalgia felt by every man whose fatherland is deeply rooted in his heart, I now come forward to address the Honduran nation with the fervent hope of ennobling this memorable date consecrated by history in the annals of our republican life.

I do so from this country where I find myself as a consequence of my altered state of health. I do so from this nation with which we maintain brotherly relations of cooperation and friendship, based on mutual respect and our common ideals in favor of peace, progress, and democracy.

But I do so, fundamentally, with the conviction that when we are far from our place of birth, from the trees that refresh us, from the friends who offer us their loyalty in a fraternal embrace, and from the people who have conferred the highest honors upon us because we share their dedication to political, economic, and social rights, it is under such circumstances that the fatherland, which we all love and respect, seems closer to our own being, when it vibrates in our souls, strengthening our awareness of serving others with honesty.

For it is the fatherland, in all its civic manifestations and its geographic and human dimensions, which constitutes the end of our strivings and the essence of our ideals. The horizon of our fatherland secures our interest in a better future of solidarity and understanding as well as increasing prosperity. Thus Jose Marti spoke truly when he said, "A foreign sun gives no warmth."

Although from a distance, I am experiencing this 15 September with greater intensity, with my spirit joined to the heart of my country and the heart of my people. This means that my thoughts and my prayers converge on the urgent need to work more and more for the welfare of Honduras, for the ennoblement of its permanent values, in order to be able to render homage to the imperishable legacy of our forefathers, of the creators of our nationhood, who on a day like today, in 1821, proclaimed the political emancipation of Central America, in order that this area of the world might travel the road of civic pride and dignity.

The Central America of today, the Central America of this age full of controversy, needs our efforts, and it is thus that, on this glorious date, all Hondurans should reaffirm their commitment to forge a better nation on the anvil of civic pride and of working daily, without pause and without hesitation, for a true peace that will benefit all and harm no one.

Today as never before, Hondurans in particular, and Central Americans in general, have a duty to struggle stoically, and if circumstances demand it to struggle to the point of sacrifice, for Central Americans to find the path of their true destiny, where the reign of liberty will prevail, and where democracy, as a system of life and government, will be the weapon of peace to prevail on the battlefields of reason and dialogue over fratricidal violence and social and economic underdevelopment.

A year ago, my dear countrymen, I spoke of how, since the long-ago days when the Central American Declaration of Independence was signed, this holiday has served no end so much as to increase in our minds the clear perception of how far we still have to go before winning true independence, an autonomy of will which, while not ceasing to express our own decisions, will also seek collaboration and interdependence as a means of serving Central America's particular destiny while sharing in the singular achievement of others' destinies. Until we solve the serious problems afflicting Central American society in general and Hondurans in particular, we cannot justifiably speak of independence, because such problems are mainly an expression of a situation of subordination and dependence which originates, basically, in our condition as former colonies, in our manner of being imbedded in the world economy, in the way in which we came to republican society, in sum, in the incomplete character of our historical development.

I also spoke of how, due to all this, independence continues to be a task today as it was yesterday. Those who think that 15 September is simply an occasion for parades, proclamations, and saluting the flag, see only the memorial aspects of this day. No! Not at all!! The 15 September should be a day of balance, of deep reflection, oriented toward discovering whether we have made any progress on the road to our national self-realization.

In this same spirit, I am speaking to you today, in order to bring you my message of faith and hope in the Honduras we all long for; in the Honduras of today as it emerges with difficulty, but with optimism; in the Honduras of tomorrow, which we must leave to future generations as a testimony to our devotion to the coat of arms and the flag which symbolize our love of our fatherland and our fatherland built with love.

Accept this greeting which I send you as your leader, as a citizen, as a friend, and as a brother. Accept it with that simplicity and generosity which is part of the essential character of all Hondurans. Accept it thus because it bears my emotion as a free man, as constitutional president of the republic, elected by the will of the people to fulfill, with the help of God, the inviolable promise of being faithful to the teachings of our history, the example of our forefathers, and the sacred commandments of the political constitution which we are sworn to uphold and defend with humility and integrity.

I embrace all Hondurans on this memorial day of our independence, with the assurance that soon, very soon, I will again be with my dear countrymen, because here, where I am separated from my native soil by distance, I have learned to strengthen the nature of my commitment to Honduras and to the aspirations of my people.

May this nostalgia which I feel today, may these emotions which today move my heart, be indissolubly fused to the ever noble soul of my people, who today render homage to their fatherland as the eternal birthright and venerable altar granted to us by God in His infinite wisdom, as we kneel before Him in eloquent expression of our fervent patriotism.

People of Honduras, it has been 29 years since I last spent 15 September outside my country, before my graduation as a physician and surgeon from the School of Medicine in the Republic of Guatemala, and then as now I have felt the great nostalgia of being and wishing to be with you on this 15 September.

I ask you, people of Honduras, men and women who love so deeply, to preserve a granitelike unity around our ideals of greatness; may all Hondurans--people, government, and armed forces--work together to forge a single unity in the face of acts of subversion and international terrorism.

May each and every one of you accept my cordial and affectionate greetings.

Many thanks.

Washington D.C., 15 September 1983.

9839

CSO: 3248/6

DOCTORS OPPOSE PUBLIC HEALTH CUTBACKS, GIVE STATISTICS

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 24 Sep 83 p 29

[Statement issued by the National Front for Physicians' Demands [Frente Reivindicador Medico Nacional] entitled: "National Medical Front Analyzes Health Budget" dated September 1983]

[Text] The analysis of the health sector, an absolutely necessary parameter for evaluating the progress of peoples, shows us clearly the desperate and cruel reality that each Honduran faces daily.

In spite of this, the government, through the Ministry of Finance, coldly announced a 17-million lempira cut in the Health budget, which in practice could come to 42 million as SITRAMEHDYS reports.

This totally unjust, counterproductive measure doubtlessly reflects a radical position opposed to the current constitution in force and to the policy expressed by the liberal government.

The foregoing becomes more painful when the minister of Health himself is of the opinion that a million-lempira cut will not affect the programs he is responsible for. This astounding statement with its curious logic seems to be founded exclusively on an optimism which cannot and should not be shared.

On the other hand, the authorities at the Honduras Medical School seem to have limited themselves to the publication of a paid faction, thus considering their effort to have been concluded. They need to redouble their demonstrations and negotiations and along with them go on record with their opinion to other health-related associations: odontologists, nurses, specialists...

On account of all the foregoing, a group of us Honduran doctors organized into the National Medical Front are sounding the alert. We do not wish to remain silent; we do not wish to be accomplices or responsible for the fact that:

--The death rate in the rural areas of Honduras continues to be 130 children out of every 1,000 live births.

--Out of every 100 children who dies, 23 have died of diarrhea.

--In the rural area there is only: 1 doctor per 150,000 Hondurans, 1 dentist per 170,000 Hondurans and 1 nurse per 50,000 Hondurans.

--Out of every 100 children, 76 suffer some degree of malnutrition.

--Only 44.9 percent of Hondurans have drinking water and only 27 percent have adequate waste disposal.

--For every 4 million Hondurans, there are only 43 either private or public hospitals, with only 5,230 beds.

--Out of every 100 births, only 20 are looked after in a hospital.

These dramatic figures have as main causes some of the following factors:

- 1) Imprecise definitions of health policies.
- 2) Deviation from the goals specified in the 10-year Health Plan.
- 3) The government's failure to keep its promise to consider health as a priority aspect in assigning budget entries.
- 4) Insufficiency of coverage of health services.
- 5) Inappropriate coordination between the organizations having to do with problems of health.
- 6) Lack of development of methods for programming or planning programs, evaluations and inspection and controls.
- 7) Inadequate education policy for human resources in the health sector.
- 8) Lack of attention to mental health programs.
- 9) Lack of maintenance in health establishment and equipment.
- 10) Inclusion of unnecessary luxury items in the building of new hospitals.
- 11) Lack of enough medicines.
- 12) Poor distribution of medical resources and few incentives or inducements for them.
- 13) Lack of influence on the precarious nutritional situation and food situation of the population.
- 14) Lack of implementation in the occupational health programs (on-the-job accidents and occupational diseases).

- 15) Land reform in incipient stage.
- 16) Failure to comply with plans to provide drinking water and waste disposal.
- 17) Deficient and insufficient literacy.
- 18) Shortage and poor quality of housing.
- 19) High percentage of unemployment and underemployment.
- 20) Loss of fairness or equity when government employees fall into sectarian and factional attitudes.
- 21) Insufficient budget allocations.

The National Front for Physicians' Demands calls upon the whole Honduran people to fight to preserve and increase the health budget; the population is increasing, military aid is increasing, but the health of our people remains forgotten and strangled.

Let us make a reality of the motto "Health for all in the year 2000."

Lastly we wish to quote what was said by Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova, as president of the republic, on 10 September last, in commemorating the Day of the Honduran Child, when the question was raised:

"Will we have a promising, happier world for our children, or misery, unhappiness and chaos?"

The same Dr Suazo Cordova answered: "That will depend on the concrete answers that governments, organizations and individuals give to this great challenge of the present time."

Give us your answer, colleague president!

Give us your answer, colleague minister!

Give us your answers, honorable deputies!

We, the Honduran people, have now resolved!

National Front for Physicians' Demands

September 1983 (Month of the Fatherland)

Dr Herminio Suazo Vasquez
General Coordinator

Dr Ruben Villeda Bermudez
Coordinator of Cultural Affairs

BRIEFS

VOTER ELECTION PARTICIPATION--Some 3 million people will be eligible to vote before the first of the year, announced Renan Murillo, coordinator of the National Registry of Persons [RNP]. Murillo, who is directing field work in San Pedro Sula, with a staff of 80, confirmed that his agency's work will be ready before the end of 1983. All data thus collected will later be processed through a central memory bank, in order to allow unique identification of individuals. Documentation of all citizens will permit not only the exercise of their rights, but also control of foreigners. Murillo said that at this time, his staff is working on transcribing 600 books of the civil registry of San Pedro Sula, based on birthdates since 1880. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 13 September 83 p 2] 9839

BASIC GRAIN SHORTAGE--The shortage of grain staples, especially corn, is due fundamentally to the IHMAC's [Honduran Agricultural Marketing Institute] lack of control over marketing, and the large quantities that have left the country. So said Roberto Zelaya, president of the National Agricultural Development Bank [BANADESA], which has invested millions of lempiras to develop corn, beans, and rice production. "Another factor to which I attribute this situation is the IHMA's lack of capacity to buy grains; hence, producers are forced to turn to other, more suitable means to market their products," said the president of BANADESA. Zelaya confided that this year's production of grain staples will be higher than the last, and "hopefully" the IHMA will be able to plan marketing in such a way as to avoid a repetition of current events. He added that the current crisis may be a direct result of bad planning by the IHMA, which "rushed to begin selling, and now we are suffering the consequences. May this be a lesson to us so that next year we will not suffer the same grain staple shortages," said Zelaya. Finally, he said, "it is to be supposed that one of the reasons for the current shortage is the large quantities that left the country." [Excerpts] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 September 83 p 13] 9839

CSO: 3428/6

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS STRIKE RAISES ANIMOSITIES

Back-to-Work Call

Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 19 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

A call on the workers of the Jamaica Public Service Company who are on strike to resume their duties immediately was made last night by the Executive Chairman and Chief Executive of the company, Mr. Orville Cox, in the wake of what appeared to be a final breakdown of talks seeking a solution to the strike.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Labour and the Public Service last night said that efforts to obtain a resumption of work "as ordered by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal" had failed.

"I make a public appeal to the workers on strike to think carefully of the principles involved and consider what is at stake in the national interest," a statement by Mr. Cox said.

"The company cannot bow to indiscipline and surrender its right to manage, nor can the country be called upon to bear the cost of lost man-hours and production at this critical time in our history.

"I am requesting all workers to resume their duties immediately."

Mr. Cox said that an important principle was at stake in the strike.

"We are at a stage in industrial relations practice in this country where grievances at the workplace cannot be settled without resorting to strike action except as the avenue of last resort.

"If workers have legitimate grievances, they must be settled through established grievance procedures. The same goes for management."

GIVING THE NEWS that the talks had broken down, the Ministry statement set out the situation as follows:

"In the matter of the dispute between the Jamaica Public Service Company and the hourly paid employees represented jointly by the BITU and the NWU, efforts to obtain a resumption of work as ordered by the Industrial Disputes Tribunal on Monday, October 10, have failed.

"Unilateral discussions have been taking place with top officials of the unions and the company's negotiating team since Tuesday, October 11.

"The facts are that at unilateral discussions held at Jamaica House on Thursday, October 13, a proposal was made by the Minister of Labour that the five workers and the superintendent of the garage should be allowed to return to work pending an enquiry into the circumstances leading up to the dispute. This proposal coincided with an earlier suggestion by the company which was refused by the unions.

"Other features of the Minister's proposal entailed:

1. The resumption of normality by the workers in accordance with the directions of the IDT.
2. Both sides requesting the Tribunal to allow them to return to the Ministry of Labour.
3. The Ministry of Labour would appoint a sole enquirer acceptable to both sides.
4. That both sides would be willing to accept the recommendations of the enquirer.
5. The recommendations of the enquirer would be sent to the Tribunal by the parties as their agreed position.

"Both sides were asked to consider acceptance of this proposal. The present position appears to be that whilst the unions are now prepared to accept this arrangement, the company is no longer willing to do so."

Reports of Violence

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Oct 83 pp 1, 16

[Text]

Violence and sabotage, reportedly increasing in the strike among hourly-paid workers of the Jamaica Public Service Company, drew strong reactions from the Hon. Parnell Charles, Minister of Public Utilities and Transport, and Mr. Orville Cox, Executive Chairman of the Company. Mr. Orville Cox vowed not to bow to indiscipline.

A JPSCo supervisor was allegedly beaten by strikers as he was leaving the company's Orange Street compound in Kingston yesterday afternoon, according to a statement issued by Mr. Cox last night.

Mr. Charles has requested the Security Forces to investigate a fire set to a JPS pole, causing St. Thomas to be without power for three days and loss of revenue running into thousands of dollars.

The strike of the hourly-paid and some of the clerical employees was continuing and employees who were on the job, lawfully carrying out their duties, were being threatened and intimidated by strikers, Mr. Cox said.

In the incident yesterday, four tyres of the supervisor's car were said to have been slashed after he was kicked. Mr. Cox deplored what he called these acts of violence, adding that the company was dedicated to protecting the rights of all its lawful employees.

"We will make every effort to see that law and order is enforced and the offenders are brought before the courts," Mr. Cox said. Incidents of this nature brought into focus the company's determination to ensure that discipline was maintained at the workplace, he added.

Mr. Charles described as "criminal saboteurs" persons who through sheer malice, would put hospitals, infirmaries, and homes in darkness for their own selfish ends.

He said information so far was that a truck tyre was placed around a pole, set on fire and the pole burnt, putting the St. Thomas area out of electricity. Private contractors had to be brought in to replace the pole and effect repairs as the workers were on strike.

Electricity, he said, had now been restored but no one could repay the people for the loss they had suffered.

The Minister apologised to those affected and called on them to be vigilant and to assist the Security Forces in the protection of the JPS system.

The strike of the over 1,000 hourly-paid workers started on October 6 when the company dismissed five workers who allegedly abused a supervisor, Mr. Owen Clarke, and physically removed him from his office to his car.

In a joint statement this week, the BITU and the NWU said the position in the dispute had always been that at the outset the company had violated the grievance procedure by firing workers on the basis of an allegation. The grievance procedure is very clear that this decision can only take place after an enquiry is held, the unions said.

On the night of Friday, October 7, the statement said, a meeting was held between the company and the unions. The company put as a basis for settlement a formula which reads as follows:

"Reinstatement of the five (5) dismissed workers and Mr. Clarke should go back to the location."

In the heat of those deliberations, the statement said, the question of Mr. Clarke's return caused both parties to fail to concur.

On Thursday, October 13, the unions were invited by the Prime Minister to Jamaica House to work out a settlement. At Jamaica House, the following proposal was put to the parties:

That normality be restored and the five workers be reinstated.

A one-man enquirer mutually acceptable to both parties would be appointed with his findings being binding on both parties.

The statement said that the union left Jamaica House after giving the undertaking that they, on Friday, October 14 should meet the Minister of Labour at 9.30 a.m. The unions were present at the Ministry until 6 p.m., the statement said, but no meeting was held.

"Up to now the unions do not understand what happened between Jamaica House and Tuesday evening 18/10/83 when we were told at the Ministry that the Jamaica House proposal is unacceptable to the company.

"On the basis of this the unions must be clear on the following:

"1. We respect the efforts of the Prime Minister in trying to settle the impasse and we have co-operated to the extent where we altered our earlier stand on Mr. Clarke.

"2. The Jamaica House proposal is only different from the company's in respect of subtle technicalities concerning the enquiry. This cannot inconvenience the company since they had also indicated to the unions that the choice of the Enquirer would be a problem, based on the fact that normally such persons be a top executive.

"3. Why has the company changed their position on the night of the 7/10/83 and by so doing had flagrantly flouted the Jamaica House proposal?"

The unions said also that while the Minister of Labour may be a man not well liked by some members of the Trade Union Movement, he must be defended against the attack by the company's chairman, Mr. Orville Cox.

"Our information is that Mr. Cox was off the island when this impasse began and so he has either been misled or he is blatantly lying. It is unfortunate that the latter has had to be conceived

but based on circumstances it cannot be escaped.

"Let us state categorically that on the night of 7/10/83, at a meeting at the company's Head Office in New Kingston, the company put as a formula for settling the dispute the following:

"That they would reinstate the five (5) dismissed workers while the Superintendent Mr. Clarke would resume his duties at Harbour Street. The unions expressed the danger of Mr. Clarke's return and made a number of recommendations on how to handle the Clarke side of the issue. We did not succeed.

"When the Minister intervened he asked the history of the issue and was brought up to date. He pleaded with the unions that their position regarding Mr. Clarke was at most unreasonable and succeeded in getting the unions to concede.

"It was against that background that the company's formula was amended by the Ministry and put to us. This position is a similar position in substance to the one put by the company on Friday night 7/10/83.

"This cannot be challenged," the unions said.

Union's Defense of Minister

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Oct 83 p 2

[Text]

The National Workers Union and the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union have defended the Minister of Labour, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, against the claims made by the Jamaica Public Service Company's Executive Chairman, Mr. Derrick Cox, that the Minister did not discuss his proposal for settlement of the longstanding dispute with the Company before putting it to the unions.

The unions in a statement yesterday that their information was that Mr. Cox was off the island at the time the impasse began and, as a result, he had either been "misled or he is blatantly lying."

It was unfortunate, they said, that the conclusion had to be conceived but, based on the circumstances, it could not be escaped.

Mr. Cox had denied in a statement on Wednesday that the company was reneging on suggestions which the Ministry of Labour said on Tuesday it made toward the settlement of the dispute over the abuse of a superintendent, and the subsequent dismissal of five workers, leading to the current impasse.

"Let us state categorically that on the night of October 7, at a meeting in the Company's head office in New Kingston, the company put as a formula for

settling the dispute the following:

"That they would reinstate the five dismissed workers while the superintendent, Mr. Clarke, would resume his duties at Harbour Street. The unions expressed the danger of Mr. Clarke's return and made a number of recommendations on how to handle the Clarke side of the issue. We did not succeed.

The unions said that when the Minister intervened he asked the history of the issue and was brought up to date. He pleaded, they said, with the unions that their position regarding Mr. Clarke

was at most unreasonable and succeeded in getting the unions to concede.

"It was against this background that the Company's formula was amended by the Ministry and put to us. This position is a similar position in substance to the one put by the company on Friday night of October 7. This cannot be challenged," the unions said.

Call on Industrial Tribunal

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Oct 83 p 16

[Text]

The Jamaica Public Service Company's Managers' Association has written to Mr Tony Irons, the Ministry of Labour's Director of Industrial Relations, requesting that he takes immediate steps to refer to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal, the dispute between the association and the company over the dismissal of Mr. Armond Wilson, superintendent of the company's garage.

In its letter, the association said that Mr. Wilson, who has been with the company for eight years, was dismissed without an inquiry on May 25, this year.

The association on June 2, wrote to the company seeking an inquiry into

charges preferred against Mr. Wilson by the company, and Mr. Wilson's reinstatement pending such an inquiry.

The company replied on June 3, denying the association's request for an inquiry.

The matter was reported to the Ministry on June 16.

At a meeting at the Ministry presided over by Mr. Robert Bloomfield on July 15, no agreement was reached and the parties agreed that the matter should be referred to the Industrial Disputes Tribunal for settlement.

At the request of the BITU, representing the Association, the matter was returned to local discussions before going to

the Tribunal. Several attempts to hold discussions fell through.

The association said that in recent informal discussions with the company, it was advised that no useful purpose would be served by any further local talks since the company's position against an inquiry remains firm.

According to the association, the issue is of critical importance against the background of the present strike at the company, because the superintendent of garage involved in the dispute which triggered the strike, was employed in great haste to fill Mr. Wilson's post, although the issue of Mr. Wilson's dismissal was at that time, before the Ministry of La-

bour and the association was demanding an inquiry.

The Managers' Association said it deplored the JPSCo.'s refusal to hold an inquiry into Mr. Wilson's dismissal and further compounding it by employing a new man to fill the post.

"We believe it is in the interest of the company as well as managers that the matter of the dismissal of Mr. Wilson be settled as quickly as possible," the association said.

"The developments relating to Mr. Wilson's dismissal and the new garage superintendent's appointment are disturbing to managers, they bring into sharp focus the company's industrial relations practices and cannot be in the interest of peace at the workplace."

Move for Settlement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Oct 83 p 2

[Text]

The Rt.Hon. Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister, will chair talks today aimed at settling the industrial dispute at the Jamaica Public Service Company.

Mr. Shearer who has taken on the portfolio of Minister of Labour, in the absence from the island of the Hon. J.A.G. Smith, was reported yesterday to be achieving a break-through after negotiations with the unions representing the workers, and with the management.

The **Gleaner** understands that both parties have agreed that it would not be in the interest of the settlement of the dispute if the five dismissed workers and the supervisor were on the job while the proposed enquiry was in progress.

However, the company is holding to the view that

the workers should not be paid while off the job. The unions on the other hand are requesting that the workers and the supervisor be put on leave until the enquiry ends.

According to sources close to the talks, the only issue that has been preventing a break of the deadlock is the formula

for work resumption which Mr. Shearer will be helping the parties to iron out today.

It is understood that both parties are prepared to accept a proposal for the workers to be sent on leave with pay for 15 days as a mutual acceptance of a formula for settlement of the dispute.

EVENTS IN GRENADA SPARK WARNINGS, OTHER REACTIONS

JLP Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Oct 83 pp 1, 16

[Text]

The Jamaica Labour Party said yesterday that as much as it deplored the events in Grenada, "it is our duty to learn from them in order to ensure that the same thing will not happen here."

In a statement, the JLP said it was saddened by the "sordid spectacle" that had been unveiled to the world in Grenada.

"As a Party that has campaigned for equal rights and justice," the JLP said, "we condemn in unequivocal terms the brutal waste of human life and the enforced curtailment of the freedom of the Grenadian people by curfew."

It said it sympathized with the relatives and loved ones of those killed and to the wife and children of the late Maurice Bishop, it extended its sincere sympathy and condolence.

The statement continued:

"But despite this, we are not unmindful of the fact that the Bishop regime was part of an international conspiracy spearheaded by Cuba, designed to enslave the people of the Caribbean and neighbouring States and to subjugate them under an ideology that has scant regard for individual freedom and individual aspirations."

"The Revolution in Grenada in 1979, was not as some naively believe, a popular uprising against an admitted despot. The wanton excesses of the Gairy regime merely ensured that the planned and calculated take over of the island by

international Communism would have an easy passage."

The JLP said that the choice of Maurice Bishop as the first leader was also a calculated move. He was chosen as a bright, articulate moderate who the intelligentsia of the island would accept in the belief that he would not commit the excesses that are characteristic of totalitarian regimes. Once his charm and charisma had secured the bridgehead, then he was destined for removal to make way for the more radical and pre-designated successor.

"The events in Grenada", the JLP said, "have followed established patterns that have been adhered to in several preceding Government take-overs. Much as we deplore them, it is also our duty to learn from them in order to ensure that the same thing will not happen here."

In its pre-election campaign leading up to the 1980 victory, the JLP said it drew attention to the Cuban threat to Jamaica's security and independence.

"We did this deliberately, very vividly remembering the bogus State of Emergency when the Party's leaders and workers were detained without cause in order to ensure a sham victory at the polls in that election."

"We then highlighted the very glaring interference in our internal affairs by the then Cuban Ambassador, Estrada; we drew attention to what was to become a People's Army, but was then euphemistically called the Brigadista Movement, trained in Cuba for subversion and

oppression and destined to outnumber and finally replace the Army and Police. What happened in Grenada could easily have happened here but fortunately, the innate good sense of the Jamaican people saved the day.

"Let us not be complacent, however, believing that the threat has vanished. The Victory of 1980 has merely delayed the time-table, and the security of Jamaica is not any less threatened now than it was then. For this reason, the Jamaica Labour Party views with alarm the statement of the moderate Chairman of the People's National Party that should his Party regain power, then it would immediately re-establish relations with Cuba. This alarm is re-enforced when the Workers' Party of Jamaica, which actively supported the P.N.P. in 1980, has come out publicly in favour of the New Revolutionary Council in Grenada.

"What is more is that it is abundantly evident that the Cubans were forewarned of the P.N.P. stance,

hence the reason for their withdrawing from sale their Embassy premises on Trafalgar Road and their maintaining possession of the residence in the Barbican area."

The Jamaica Labour Party said it fully endorsed the measures outlined by the Prime Minister in his statement Thursday night which he hoped would meet with the concurrence of the other leaders of the Caribbean Community. These measures are designed to force the present Grenadian leaders to return the country to Constitutional rule through free and fair elections.

"The Jamaica Labour Party calls on the countries who, although condemning the present situation in Grenada, have expressed their willingness to support the regime, to reconsider their position and withdraw their support, thereby hastening the time when that beautiful Island and its people can return to peace through the rule of law", the statement said"

Manley Press Conference

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 23 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] Opposition leader, Mr. Michael Manley, said yesterday that the PNP would consider in their proper perspectives, actions such as sanctions, the breaking of ties with Grenada and even specific trade sanctions which might be taken by CARICOM states against Grenada, but would not support the sending of foreign troops into the country.

Mr. Manley was speaking at a press conference Friday morning following the PNP statement issued on Thursday night which deplored the killing of Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, two of his Cabinet colleagues and two trade unionists, and repudiated the Revolutionary Council. The PNP statement also said that the party severed all relations with the New Jewel Movement (NJM) and called for the isolation of the new Grenadian leaders.

Asked by journalists if the PNP would support a CARICOM decision to send in troops to bring stability to the island and release the people from further suffering, if such a decision were taken, Mr. Manley said "We would never support the sending of foreign troops into another sovereign country." He said that the Grenadian people would have to resolve the problems by themselves.

Responding to a question on whether support would be given to the sending in of a UN peace keeping force if that was actively suggested, Mr. Manley said he did not know that the question of a peace keeping force arose.

PNP Chairman P. J. Patterson told the press conference that the UN was forbidden by charter from sending troops into any sovereign country against the wishes of the Government in place. He said that it was not even remotely possible that the Government in place in Grenada would welcome any such troops.

'Inconceivable'

Mr. Manley said that there was no evidence that there was any outside influence in recent events in Grenada. He said he noted that the Cuban Government had condemned the events and had called for investigations into the events in Grenada. Mr. Manley said he did not believe that the killings arose out of strictly internal problems in the party but felt that the coup had been planned long ago. He said that it was inconceivable that Mr. Maurice Bishop and the others killed on Wednesday were killed in a "cross fire" as the military authorities in Grenada claimed. He said he could not believe that in a cross fire the Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues and the trade unionists would be the only ones killed and that not one of them was shot and injured but all killed.

Socialist International, of which he is a Vice President, had asked him his own impressions of what had taken place in Grenada and had asked that he and another Vice President, Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela, investigate the events which took place in Grenada and make recommendations to that international body of socialist parties. Mr. Manley said he would be recommending to Socialist International the actions taken by the PNP.

Mr. Manley said that the crisis in Grenada was going to have "serious implications for the future of CARICOM". He said he would urge CARICOM leaders meeting this weekend to remember that any action which isolates the regime brings pressure on its leadership.

Additional Manley Remarks

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Oct 83 p 2

[Text]

Opposition Leader Michael Manley has voiced support for the isolation of the present regime in Grenada but has warned that Caribbean leaders must be careful that their actions do not inflict more punishment on the Grenadian people.

He has also stated that since the unfolding of the "terrible happenings" in Grenada, there has been much talk of democracy and declared that as a peo-

ple "we must understand democracy, not for cheap political propaganda, but rather as the fundamental challenge facing us".

Mr. Manley was speaking on Friday night at the annual dinner of the Institution of Industrial Managers at the Courleigh Hotel in Kingston.

Referring to the meeting of CARICOM leaders being held in Trinidad, Mr. Manley said: "I would say solemnly to our leaders that I hope they will remember the distinction be-

tween the things that isolate the regime from those that have to do with the survival of ordinary people".

He noted that a suggestion had been made for the expulsion of Grenada from CARICOM and said that was not the answer. The leaders should isolate the regime but not rupture the principles of CARICOM because of that regime's behaviour. "I believe we need to think about this with great sobriety and seriousness", the Opposition Leader said.

Mr. Manley described the killings in Grenada as a case of murder "most foul", adding that Jamaicans had a "clear responsibility" to do everything to isolate the regime and to lead to its eventual removal and defeat.

He said the CARICOM leaders would be "very properly and correctly united in one common desire to punish the murderers and to create a situation where defeat can be accomplished more quickly". Everything that isolated a regime of that sort must be done and the Opposition was in support of this.

But in doing this, some serious issues would be raised, he said.

The first principle would be to isolate so as to weaken and eventually remove the regime, but while this was being done, the people of Grenada must be remembered. The instinctive reaction was to put every conceivable pressure on the regime, but it must be remembered that in trying to get at a regime, it might be found that some things did not hurt them, rather, they were really hurting the simple people who were already tragic victims of the happening.

He pointed to such action as the cutting off of the supply of arms to reduce the effectiveness of the Army, and diplomatic isolation at varying levels. However, he said, the cutting off of food and medical supplies would not be right because these were things vital to the life of the people. In denying the exports of the small farmers, this was to disrupt their capacity to survive as peasants.

The answer was not to seek to expel Grenada from CARICOM but to isolate the regime.

DEMOCRACY

Mr. Manley said that since the incident there had been much talk about Democracy and one of the great dangers that faced Jamaica was to fall into the mental confusion in thinking that Democracy started and ended with voting in elections once every five years.

He pointed to what he described as the talk about the sanctity of democracy and the "great rhetorical assertions" about the advantage of ballots over the bullets. He said our democracy was finely represented in our Parliament and that he thought that, very importantly, democracy must involve at some level, the concept of participation.

Mr. Manley said that one of the things Jamaica was suffering from at this time "is a terrible over-concentration of power in one pair of hands".

"However sincere and hard-working, it is not good for the country to be absolutely afraid of delegating authority. I would suggest to those who wish to make political capital of the word democracy, that democracy, like charity, is a concept that begins at home".

The PNP leader said it must be understood that democracy operated at many levels and that it was vital to a country that its institutions be democratic. The communities and the Government must be democratic, he declared, adding that the Government must relate to the institutions in democratic ways.

He said that by ignoring such institutions, one was abolishing working democracy. It was vital for a society to evolve in terms of the Government inviting into discussions and relationships the institutions in existence.

He said one of the challenges Jamaica faced for the future was that of looking at democracy some more, and seeing how, through imagination and intelligence, "we could begin to democratise the work-place".

He said this should not be done in any vulgar way that destroyed productivity, but in an intelligent way, designing institutions through which worker-participation could be developed. Democracy must be understood as a subject not for cheap political propaganda but rather as the fundamental challenge.

According to Mr. Manley, Jamaica would not succeed "in the remote control of removed management" but, rather, to the extent that it could motivate, through participation, a genuinely dynamic democratic process.

ECONOMY

Turning to Jamaica's economic problems, Mr. Manley said the country faced two imperatives: management and motivation. He said management was critical, adding: "You will design the best plan and have the best manager to run it, but if you cannot motivate the Jamaican people at all levels to have the will to want it to succeed, the plan will fail".

In emphasising the need to motivate the people, Mr. Manley pointed to "In Search of Excellence", a book examining the most successful United States business corporations. The book, he said, pointed to the things done to create a climate of working-force motivation, implying that that level of motivation was needed here.

In his opinion, one of the "very real contributing factors" to the country's present economic difficulties derived from a major miscalculation in pursuing the strategy of de-regulation three years ago. He

said he regarded it then and now as an act of gross irresponsibility.

Mr. Manley pointed to the foreign-exchange problems and said the Opposition had no quarrel with borrowing money to deal with some of the problems. The Opposition, he said, respected and recognised the need for foreign capital but there was a "profound difference" between the approach of seeing foreign capital as the salvation and that of seeing the challenge of national development as first of all the internal process of capital accumulation, economic development, with the valued supplement of foreign capital.

He emphasised the importance of self-reliance in helping to solve the problems, stating: "I will always assert that a country cannot afford to get itself into an attitude of dependence on external sources for the solution of its problems".

He said that if Jamaica hoped to find a "totality of programmes" that would represent an answer to the problems, then there was no single institution or group of persons who were likely to carry out the planning and implementation by themselves.

"One of the lessons Jamaica has to learn is that, those for instance in the political process who have the ultimate responsibility to try to come up with a plan and implement it, that they will try to cast the net of consultation as wide as possible and particularly among those people who have to operate and manage the different sectors of the economy", Mr. Manley said.

He noted that his party, in looking at the economic strategies to deal with the problems, had asked for assistance from various organisations.

Patterson Statement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 25 Oct 83 p 10

[Text]

THE People's National Party has already made clear its own position on the brutal acts perpetrated by the Revolutionary Military Council in Grenada, and its despicable conduct.

The statement issued by the Jamaica Labour Party on the tragic events, is in character with their pattern of vulgar distortions and their inability to deal even with those events of profound regional importance in a sober fashion. We are not surprised at their desperate attempt to create local panic and hysteria, especially at a time when their political fortunes are so rapidly sinking.

Our party's commitment to plural democracy, to the electoral system and to meaningful participation by the people in the political process, is a matter of historic record. It is enshrined in the Party's Constitution and Principles. It is evident not only by our words but even more so by our deeds.

The Party's Constitution, its principles and objectives, oblige its members to advocate political changes here by no method other than by the democratic process. The path of violent revolution in Jamaica is incompatible with membership of the PNP.

We note that military coups in various countries are not a monopoly of the Left, and have more often been a feature of the Right. They are to be condemned no matter what their political complexion, because they abrogate all forms of democracy.

That Idi Amin received his military training in the UK does not make the British responsible for the oppressive regime he imposed on the people of Uganda.

We have no necessity to speak for Cuba. The Cuban Government and Party have already spoken unequivocally for themselves. If there exists any credible information or reliable evidence to establish external interference in the affairs of Grenada from whatever quarter, we await its production. We will then be forthright in our condemnation, no matter from what source such intervention may come. As we will never countenance the interference in Jamaica's internal affairs from any external quarter, we will not condone it elsewhere.

Not so ignorant

The decision whether or not the Cubans sell their embassy premises on Trafalgar Road, or maintain the residence in the Barbican area, is not subject to our

Party's influence or control.

But surely, the JLP is not so ignorant of international conventions as to fail to realise that while they may present the establishment of a Cuban Embassy accredited to the Government of Jamaica, they will not be able to refuse one which is accredited directly to the Sea-bed Authority. This obligation arises by virtue of hosting a UN Agency.

It was not the PNP who advocated the removal of Jamaica's democratically elected Government "whether by overthrow or underthrow." It was not the Leader of the PNP who publicly stated on election day that he would not accept the results unless they were in favour of his party. No one in the PNP has ever threatened "to lock up the island tighter than a sardine tin."

The entire membership of the PNP loyally accepted the decision of the Jamaican electorate in 1980. Since then, the party in opposition has displayed an exemplary sense of responsibility and has engaged in no activity that would disturb national life or keep the society in a state of permanent tension. The current collapse of the economy cannot be attributed to any overseas campaign by our party to discourage tourists or would-be investors, or any incitement to lock down our industrial plants.

The JLP warns of a threat which their victory averted. Is it that they were privy to plans for the forceable removal of the Government in the event that the PNP had won? Do they give full support to the constitutional Government of Jamaica?

Will not succeed

It is time the JLP stopped its scarce tactics. It is high time they concentrate instead on the social and economic crises which presently engulf the entire nation. The attempts to divert attention from the real issues, will not succeed.

Jamaica's traditions, its institutions, and the strong democratic feeling of its people, all combine to ensure that no one can disturb our constitutional heritage and fundamental freedoms. The PNP is a cornerstone of all this.

The party reiterates its support for all measures designed to isolate the clique in Grenada. Our primary concern must lie in the protection of the Grenadian people, and we will encourage all legitimate steps designed to ensure the return of a Government which commands the support of its people.

Carl Stone Comment

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 26 Oct 83 p 10

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Excerpt]

Here in Jamaica, the ghost of Bishop is going to haunt Manley and the PNP. The mainly economic agenda of public debate and concerns has been redefined by Grenada to reopen the issue of Communism and fears of Cuba and Russia which had become dormant after the 1980 election victory.

Many are going to ask whether Manley can offer the country any guarantee that what happened to Bishop will not happen to him if he comes to power. Many believe that both the Russians and the Cubans had a hand in Bishop's death, notwithstanding the Cuban statements expressing horror over Bishop's murder. Much of the support that switched from Seaga to Manley in recent polls (influenced by the state of the economy) is likely to drift back to the JLP out of anxiety over the PNP's continued friendly ties with Castro. These anxieties have been doubly reinforced by an ill-advised and ill-timed visit to the Soviet Union by PNP party officials.

The backlash against Communists in Jamaica following the emotional reactions to the murder of Bishop makes Trevor Munroe and the WPJ priceless propaganda assets for the JLP. Every broadcast they make and every public statement they utter feed the mills of anti-Communist anxieties which could well guarantee Seaga victory in the next elections here in Jamaica.

Grenada has become a potential Falklands for the JLP. If the invasion cleans up the next of murderous Leftists, and frees the people to again have a say in determining who governs them, Seaga and Reagan will emerge as champions of the cause of freedom in the Caribbean. More importantly, a successful invasion exercise will cement Eastern Caribbean support solidly behind the anti-communist foreign policy of Reagan in the hemisphere.

Opportunist Leftist have given power and support to Reagan where even his CBI policy moves failed to win him the overwhelming endorsement of Caribbean governments and people.

Popular

The fact is that the invasion of Grenada is both popular here in Jamaica and in the rest of the Caribbean because of the feelings about the murderous butchers of St. George's.

If Reagan's forces are able to free the people of Grenada from left authoritarianism and government at gun-point, he will have the Caribbean governments and people in his corner in his regional war against Communism.

Grenada is likely to reshape the political profile of this region and provide Eddie Seaga with a passport and visa to the land of election victory when the people of Jamaica choose the next government.

The polls we carried out last week-end will give us some clues as how far the Grenada issue has redefined the political agenda here in Jamaica.

What is certain is that marxism has been sentenced to death and buried for a long time in the English-speaking Caribbean as a result of the developments in Grenada.

CS0: 3298/120

PATTERSON REPORTS ON PNP DISCUSSIONS WITH BUSH

Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 19 Oct 83 pp 1, 19

[Text] Representatives of the People's National Party, who met with U.S. Vice President George Bush and members of his party yesterday morning, discussed "issues fundamental to the P.N.P. which have been the subject of misunderstanding".

Party Chairman, Mr. P. J. Patterson, who was one of the participants at the breakfast meeting, told a news conference afterwards that the P.N.P. also took the opportunity to "emphasise the importance of developing a positive and friendly relation (with the U.S.) within the context of basic principles".

The P.N.P. team which met with Vice-President Bush at the residence of the U.S. Ambassador, was led by Opposition Leader and P.N.P. President, Mr. Michael Manley.

Other P.N.P. officers who made up the team included Miss Portia Simpson, Vice-President; Dr. Paul Robertson, General Secretary; Senator Carl Rattray, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission and the Hon. Alfred Rattray, Chairman of the North American Sub-Committee of the Foreign Affairs Sub-Commission. Also present at the meeting were the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. William Hewitt, Mr. Charles Gillespie, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs and Mr. Phillip Hughes, Deputy Assistant to the Vice-President for Security Affairs.

"There was a full and frank discussion of the sources of the misunderstandings in the past and the hope expressed that the talks would help lay a foundation that would remove those misunderstandings in the future," Mr. Patterson said.

He said that the areas of "misunderstanding" which were explored included the P.N.P.'s relations with Cuba, the P.N.P.'s attitude to Democracy, and the party's stand on foreign investment.

He said it was pointed out to the U.S. team that Cuba shared common ground with Jamaica in that it was a neighbouring country, was part of the Third World and that it was a non-aligned nation. He said the U.S. Vice President was told that the P.N.P. "intends to maintain principles relations with Cuba."

MR. PATTERSON said that a P.N.P. Government would not be changing the former relationship with Cuba. He said that much of the difficulty with the relationship with Cuba was to the "perception" of the relationship.

"We will not be changing the content and thrust of that relationship but will have to take into account the perception of the content and the thrust of the relationship," Mr. Patterson said.

He said that several statements had been made by the U.S. Administration that the previous P.N.P. Administration tended to depart from the democratic tradition. He said that this was not so and that the local and foreign press as well as the then Opposition helped in creating a perception that the P.N.P. Administration was not committed to Democracy.

The P.N.P., Mr. Patterson said, "unswervingly" supported Democracy. The P.N.P. Chairman said that in the talks yesterday, P.N.P. President Michael Manley emphasised "the permanent and enduring commitment of the P.N.P. to the democratic process".

He said that another misunderstanding had been the belief that the P.N.P. did not welcome foreign investment. On the contrary, the P.N.P. Administration had always supported "the necessity and desirability" of foreign investment, provided it did not conflict with Jamaica's policies and goals.

He said he told the U.S. Vice-President that any change in the level of aid to Jamaica would be detrimental to the people of Jamaica and that aid should not be provided to Jamaica on a political basis or to any one political party.

ON MATTERS of external affairs, Mr. Patterson said the P.N.P. voiced its support for the efforts of the Contadora Group in arriving at a settlement of the conflict in Central America.

The P.N.P. also expressed concern for "initiatives directed against the Nicaraguan Government" and rejected the U.S. view that "the only effective means of achieving Namibian independence (is) through simultaneous withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia and Cuban troops from Angola".

Mr. Patterson said that the U.S. Vice-President and his team "reflected an appreciation of what we had to say".

The Hon. Alfred Rattray told representatives of the media that Mr. Bush indicated that the U.S. Administration would respect any Government once it was democratically elected.

CSO: 3298/120

CARL STONE COMMENTS ON JAMAICA-U.S. TIES, PNP STATUS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Oct 83 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

THE VISIT of U.S. Vice-President Bush to Jamaica brings shamiv into relief the delicate and important issues surrounding U.S.-Jamaica relations.

To begin with, Jamaica has undoubtedly benefitted in a time of severe need from U.S. help inspired by the Reagan-Seaga political alliance.

In the brief period after the fall of the Manley government U.S. aid to Jamaica was massively increased. Indeed, if one adds in all the various direct and indirect forms of U.S. aid flowing to Jamaica under Seaga, the level is in excess of \$200 million per annum. In terms of per capita U.S. aid, this would certainly place Jamaica only after Israel and Egypt at the top of the list of U.S. aid recipients. In effect, there has been something of the order of a ten-fold increase in U.S. aid to Jamaica following the change of government.

The extent of U.S. help to the Seaga Government is most clearly demonstrated in the purchase of bauxite by the Reagan government in a period of dramatic decline of world demand for bauxite. The purchase cannot be justified for the U.S. either on economic or strategic stockpiling criteria. It represents a clear gesture of political support for a regime which is seen by the U.S. as serving U.S. regional geo-political goals.

The Seaga-Reagan partnership in the authorship and development of the Caribbean Basin Initiative probably represents the highest point of assertion of common economic and political goals binding the two regimes in a bond that is even closer than the earlier Michael Manley—Fidel Castro alliance.

To be sure, U.S. aid has not had the political impact many thought it would as with savaging of the Jamaican economy by the U.S. recession it has merely plugged a few holes in a leaky vessel in which the passengers have been too overwhelmed by the high seas of lay-offs, cost of living increases, unemployment and declining markets, purchasing power and availability of foreign exchange to notice the difference. The objective fact is, however, that without the level of U.S. aid the country has been receiving, all of these problems would be infinitely worse.

Turning sour

To be sure, there are some disquieting features of the relationship. But for the Reagan regime's hostility to Manley for his flirtation with Cuba, the U.S. would hardly have developed more than a nodding acquaintance with Seaga. Secondly, the Americans were fed a rather unrealistic set of projections on how capitalism and freedom here were going to create a showpiece that would be a shining contrast to the economic blight of the Manley period. The aid has helped and is welcomed but the promised economic miracle is fast turning sour, notwithstanding all the premature song and dance about Agro-21 and the CBI.

More importantly, U.S. Jamaica relationships are based on the fragile political predispositions of partisan political allies rather than on stable nation-to-nation understandings and common interests that will be durable. Should Seaga lose the next election and Reagan win another White House term Jamaica and the U.S. would be again locked into another collision course towards confrontation.

No matter how far the PNP moderate their ideological stance, provided the PNP remains tied into the Cuba-Grenada-Nicaragua axis, U.S. attitudes towards such a government will be based on distrust combined with overt hostility.

It is therefore unfortunate that these relations are hinged on the uncertain fortunes of party leaders, and could become redefined overnight should those fortunes change in the near future.

The extensive provision of U.S. technical assistance in virtually every area of public policy making has been a cause for some resentment among public sector technocrats and middle class professionals. One such person expressed the view to me last week that should the Seaga regime be in power for the normal ten-year life cycle, the entire Jamaican public sector will be re-colonised as a kind of second string appendage to the stream of U.S. experts who are seen as gradually expropriating the function of advising government on

public policy. Feelings on this matter run very deep, although many are reluctant to express them openly out of fear of political repercussions.

The United States' main concern in the region is to contain communism, anti-imperialist alliances, leftist regimes and interests which have links with Eastern Europe. But for the threat posed by Cuba and the leftist challenge in Central America, Vice President Bush would not have thought it worth his time to visit Jamaica. Nor would Mr. Seaga's links with Reagan have been developed.

Although the Caribbean is a significant market for many Florida based U.S. enterprises as well as a few others, if the entire Caribbean were to sink into the sea, the U.S. economy would hardly notice the difference. U.S. interests in the region are therefore primarily political, seeking to use the carrot of economic assistance and opportunities for trade to build networks of supportive alliances.

Given the degree to which our main parties divide on the sensitive national and regional political issues involved, the visit will be seen by many in very partisan terms. That is unfortunate but unavoidable.

Many who support the JLP and the close Reagan-U.S. tie are hoping that Reagan's Vice President has come not merely out of a gesture of political support in time of deepening economic crisis but with a view to announcing a higher level of U.S. aid which might help the JLP government through these very difficult times.

Whether their hopes will be fulfilled, remains to be seen.

Realities

Virtually all the foreign capital which has come into our economy to finance a number of important areas of investment has come mainly because of the promotion of the Seaga regime by Reagan. Many of these interests have fears about the implications of a change of government. Where such investments create jobs or open up new avenues of production and capacity for foreign exchange earnings, it seems to be absolutely essential (in the national interest) that our opposition party begins to give this kind of investor reassurances, notwithstanding the PNP's political fight with Reagan. The country has nothing to gain and everything to lose if potentially viable investments stay away, or are intimidated by political uncertainty.

Given the collapse of the CARICOM market due to the financial measures of the Trinidadian Government and the real opportunities offered by CBI, no political party that hopes to govern this country successfully can fail to recognise that we need the Americans more than they need us.

The PNP would be well advised to face up to some of these realities before it gets locked into purist ideological posturing that leaves no room for a reconciliation with the U.S., regardless of who sits in the White House.

CSO: 3298/121

TRADE POLICY FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT, PARTY ATTENTION

Interministerial Commission

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Oct 83 p 5

[Text]

The first business meeting of the newly-appointed Inter-ministerial Commission on International Trade took place at Jamaica House on Thursday. The meeting was convened by the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, Prime Minister, in his capacity as Chairman of the Commission.

Commenting on the role of IMCIT as part of the Government's Structural Adjustment Programme, Mr. Seaga said it would formulate international trade policy. It would also be instrumental in co-ordinating the development of Jamaica's overseas trade by bringing together all government bodies involved in production, investment and marketing of exports.

Special attention would be to ensure that full advantage is taken of the C.B.I. and other preferential treaty arrangements.

The Commission would also examine various manufacturing sub-sectors and commodities to put measures in place to overcome problems faced by exporters.

Matters dealt with at this first business meeting IMCIT included the future role of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation and the transfer of the Jamaica Export Trading Company to the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company.

Speaking about the two agencies, the Prime Minister said that JETCO would be called on to play a critical role in the development of ethnic food exports to North America and Europe. JETCO, he added, would focus its efforts on working with farmers on a contract basis.

TURNING TO the question of the A.M.C., Mr. Seaga said that the

Corporation's main function would be to register all fresh food exporters, and ensure that the highest standard of quality is maintained.

The work of both agencies would play an integral role in AGRO 21 which was officially launched earlier this week, he added.

Other matters discussed included the export of processed foods from Jamaica. Special reference was made to recent developments concerning illegal exports of canned ackees into the United States, which have seriously prejudiced exports of all canned food into that country, and the quality of Blue Mountain Coffee.

These two matters are listed to be discussed as priorities at the next meeting of IMCIT.

Present at the meeting were two of the three Government Ministers who sit on the Commission: Hon. Douglas Vaz, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and Hon. Dr. Percival Broderick, Minister of Agriculture.

The Deputy Chairman of the Commission, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, was off the island at the time of the meeting.

Also present were Dr. Headley Brown, representing the National Planning

Agency; Mrs. Corinne McLarty, representing the Jamaica National Investment Promotion Limited; Mr. Jim Rinella, Executive Director of AGRO 21; Dr. Arnell Henry, of the Bureau of Standards; Mr. O.K. Melhado, of the Jamaica Commodity Trading Company; Mr. Ishamel Robertson, Chairman of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation; Mr. Warren Woodham, Executive Director of NIDCO; and the Commission Secretary Mr. Peter King, Chief Executive of the Jamaica National Export Corporation.

The J.N.E.C. is the Sec-

retariat for IMCIT which will develop action programmes related to IMCIT objectives.

The Prime Minister invited exporters to make submissions on the Secretariat of problems dealing with international trade which involve more than one Agency and Ministry of Government.

"IMCIT," he said, "is a co-ordinating mechanism, not a replacement for the normal operations of responsible Ministries."

The Prime Minister has also set up Inter-ministerial Committees on Incentives and AGRO 21.

Exporters' License Problems

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Oct 83 p 7

[Text]

The Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) is to seek a meeting with Prime Minister Edward Seaga to hold discussions with him on the problems its members are facing in getting licences from the Trade Administrator's Department and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Mr. Geoffrey Messado, President of the JEA, made this suggestion, which was accepted, following reactions to his address at the 15th annual general meeting of the JEA at Export House, Dominica Drive, New Kingston, on Thursday.

He said he got the feeling from members that the meeting with Mr. Seaga was necessary because the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Douglas Vaz, had not been able to give satisfactory answers about licences which had not been issued following several reviews.

Earlier in delivering his address, Mr. Messado said there had been so many shocks during the past JEA year that he was unable to determine which one had the greatest effect on exporters. The announcement of the new quota system at the end of the last calendar year had caused exporters to send in information on past and projected imports for 1983 on three separate occasions.

Mr. Messado said he would not go into the details of how the quotas were issued and withdrawn and reissued, resulting in exporters not being able to import for the first part of 1983.

He also listed the problems of the parallel market with the shifting of additional imports on to the parallel rate of exchange, Caricom trade and the Export Development Fund.

Exporters were promised that the EDF would

come on stream by October 5 and that licences for imports would be granted by the end of September, then the end of last week, but none of these had been fulfilled.

JEA's first vice-president, Mr. Vincent Matross-McIntosh, who delivered the report of the Board of Directors which drew sharp reactions on the matter of licences, said he had learned that the reported review of licences was completed last week.

Calling for the release of the licences, Mr. Matross-McIntosh said he heard on Wednesday that some information would have been given about the licences but this was not yet forthcoming. He was also in touch with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce whose officers were unable to give clear and precise information on the licences.

Mr. Matross-McIntosh observed that the Government was trying its best as some companies really had licences that they did not intend to use for the calendar year; however he questioned what had happened to the US\$110 million that Mr. Vaz announced had been identified in the foreign exchange budget.

The scenario, he said, was that the Trade Board could not move because they were waiting on instructions from the Minister and the Minister could not move because he was awaiting orders from the Prime Minister.

Orders from a trade mission to the Dutch islands could not be met in the face of the absence of licences, one director said, adding: "I'm quite dissatis-

fied now with the whole situation concerning licences."

The time was fast approaching, he said, when companies would have to resort to laying off workers and that was where the real impact would come.

Director Mr. O.T. Williams claimed that the agencies and Ministries which were responsible for the manufacturers were "very ineffective" because they were given responsibility without authority. It would seem to him, he said, that the main person that the exporters should speak to was the Prime Minister who held the handle and it was no use exporters knew the problem and shy away from approaching Mr. Seaga. "We keep on praying for hope, delaying layoffs... get the Prime Minister to

speak to us about our problem."

At this point Mr. Messado suggested that the Association write to the Prime Minister with a view to seeking the meeting and holding discussions on the problems as Mr. Vaz had been incapable of giving satisfactory answers.

One director mooted that deadlines be set for the Prime Minister to respond and if no positive results materialised, the factories should be closed.

During the elections, Mr. Messado was returned unanimously as President, Mr. Matross-McIntosh, 1st Vice-President; Mr. Deryck Rose, 2nd Vice-President; Miss Pauline Stone, 3rd Vice-President and Mr. John Ramson, 4th Vice-President.

PNP Criticism

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Oct 83 p 2

[Text] The Chairman of the People's National Party, Mr. P. J. Patterson, said on Saturday that the Party viewed with dismay the "strangulation of the productive sector by the failure to issue licences, provide adequate foreign exchange, and by the whimsical and capricious manner with which the licensing policy was being implemented."

In a statement issued from the Party's Headquarters, Mr. Patterson said that reports received by the PNP indicated that an increasing number of businesses were closing, some had reduced their labour force, and others had eliminated some lines of production. The effects were not only the loss of

employment by workers but also the inability to secure export earnings to take the country out of its current economic crisis.

Businessmen he added were unable to plan with any degree of certainty, and they were earning a reputation (through no fault of theirs) of being unreliable suppliers. Mr. Patterson said individual efforts were being frustrated. For example orders received by the Jamaica Exporters' Association from its recent mission to non-CARICOM countries, and by the Small Business' Association through its Expo 21 for which imported raw materials were necessary, were in danger of being cancelled.

Mr. Patterson said discussions with a cross-section of business interests last week indicated there was a serious erosion of confidence by the business community and added that when these problems were added to the "complexities and contradictions created by the parallel market system, the result was a prescription for the death of the productive sector."

He said that although there was a recent announcement that U.S.\$110 million was being made available to the productive sector for necessary imports, the public had not yet been told of the source of the funding, and because no licences were being issued this was increasing the concern of the business community.

Mr. Patterson said that the PNP was very concerned at the report of the Minister of Industry's rash statement - that goods imported and now on the wharves could rot and so could the money spent by these importers - without taking into account the reasons why these goods were imported - displayed a callous attitude by the Minister. This, he said, was another example of the arrogance and use of intemperate language by the

Minister.

The Party Chairman said that if there had been miscalculations of the real state of foreign exchange available, this did not absolve the Minister of his responsibility to the productive sector, and the country. There was a growing lack of confidence in the Minister. The Party, he said, had called on two recent occasions for the Minister to be removed from the Cabinet by the Prime Minister. Failure to do so suggested there was

political cowardice by the Prime Minister as well as protection by him of incompetent Cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Patterson ended his statement with a call for the immediate replenishment of the Export Development Fund (EDF) and for the issuing of licences in accordance with quotas allocated to avoid further disruption and closures of businesses and the accompanying loss of employment.

Patterson on Licenses

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Oct 83 p 8

[Text]

The Chairman of the People's National Party, Mr. P. J. Patterson, has called for the "urgent issue of licences to those industries which have already reduced their workforce" because of foreign exchange problems.

He was addressing the monthly meeting of the Customs Brokers Association at the Hotel Four Seasons, St. Andrew, last Wednesday.

Mr. Patterson asserted: "It would appear that every single week the country experiences the trauma of a change in ministerial directives issued to the Trade Administrator. No sooner is the import quota issued at the start of the year than it is recalled for review.... The productive sector is exhorted to produce but denied the requisite foreign exchange."

Having noted that foreign exchange problems were prompting businesses to close down or scale down operations, Mr. Patterson called for the "ur-

gent issue of licences to those industries which have already reduced their workforce" after "full consultations" with the unions representing the affected workers.

The PNP Chairman also urged the Government to institute a "licensing system which is fair, consistent and predictable - placing emphasis on goods essential to the society as a whole and those items and raw materials which generate meaningful economic activity."

Mr. Patterson also pointed out that "There is need to replenish fully and immediately the Export Development Fund and an urgent need for the reduction of red tape in the bureaucracy."

"Contrary to expectation, the bureaucracy has increased by leaps and bounds (since 1980).... Customs brokers who handle export documentation on behalf of exporters experience considerable grief and delay in running the vast and complex documentation through the bureaucratic system," he said.

Besides speaking of the need for more licences, an improved licensing system and bureaucratic efficiency, Mr. Patterson also focused on the "workings of the eight-tiered parallel market exchange system" and its effects on local producers and Jamaica's trading relationship with sister Caricom states.

Having asserted that most people had difficulty understanding the "workings of the parallel markets", Mr. Patterson quipped, "One week the Minister of Industry and Commerce gives an interview in which he proclaims that it will bring benefits to manufacturers, and by the time the interview is published, he does not say that he has been misquoted but that his wild speculations are already out of date."

"The sole continuing beneficiary (of the parallel market) has been the Ministry of Finance which has effectively increased its tax take by the same sneaking

device it used to impose another 19 cents on gasoline when that item was transferred in June to parallel market rates", the PNP Chairman contended.

The parallel market system was fuelling domestic inflation and "rendering pricing and accounting practices totally unpredictable," Mr. Patterson complained.

"Most significantly, the system 'has further alienated our regional trading partners and has already triggered a chain of reaction within Caricom which threatens its very foundations', the PNP Chairman said.

On a broader plane, he suggested, "It is high time for the leaders of the region - its politicians, industrialists, trade unionists, economists and journalists - to meet and assess the performance of Caricom so far" and to determine the future directions of the movement.

MANUFACTURERS WANT GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF ECONOMY, TRADE

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 24 Oct 83 pp 1, 16

[Text] "As a matter of urgency", a meeting is being sought with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry and Commerce by the Jamaica Manufacturers Association to discuss the state of the economy, the foreign exchange budget, import licensing and the manufacturing sector.

A resolution seeking the meeting with the Ministers and expressing dissatisfaction and "grave concern" at the manner in which the review of quotas and licences has been handled was passed at the monthly meeting of the Directors of the Association during last week.

Several members of its Board of Directors of the J.M.A. reported widespread anxiety and concern from the general membership about the current state of the economy and its negative effect on their businesses.

At the meeting, the Board was advised that many manufacturers had been forced to institute cut-backs in production in some instances and to begin temporary lay-offs in their labour force in other cases, as the result of a critical raw material shortage.

The President, Mr. Anthony Williams, told the meeting that he had been advised that licences to the value of U.S.\$10 million were authorised to be released starting October 18; and he advised that manufacturers who have been unable to get licences in the last several weeks should contact the Trade Board immediately.

He further requested that those obtaining licences should advise the J.M.A. Secretariat immediately, providing the following information: The import receipt number, the value, the description of goods, importation lead time, the number of weeks raw material inventory on hand, and the number of employees.

Mr. Williams also outlined the events of the last several weeks and gave the background to the review of the quotas, licences, import budget and licence applications.

Board members expressed the view that the Government had not taken the manufacturing sector or the country into its confidence. This, they said, had led to a feeling of uncertainty and insecurity regarding the future of their businesses and of the nation's economic position.

A heated debate was concluded by the unanimous passing of the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that the J.M.A. seek a meeting, as a matter of urgency, with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry and Commerce to discuss the following points:

(1) The state of the economy (2) The foreign exchange budget (3) The current position of import licencing (4) The state of the manufacturing sector resulting from the licensing review.

"Be it further resolved that this Board express its dissatisfaction and grave concern over the manner in which the review of quotas and licences has been handled"

The Board meeting also expressed the view that in trying to meet desired national objectives, the Association was willing to offer its co-operation and requested only to be properly consulted and advised by Government of those objectives.

SEAGA DISCUSSES 8 NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS WITH JNIP

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 83 pp 1A, 2A

[Text] PRIME MINISTER, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, yesterday told an investment seminar organised by the Jamaica National Investment Promotion Ltd for U.S., Canadian, British and Jamaican business executives, that up to the end of last month, the JNIP had implemented 168 projects to the tune of \$272.65 million.

Mr. Seaga, addressing the opening plenary session, added that there were another 65 projects involving over \$82 million in the final stage of preparation.

The three-day seminar which began on Friday is being sponsored jointly by the Jamaica National Investment Promotion, Ltd., and Wyndham Hotel chain of the USA, operators of the Rose Hall Beach and Country Club in Montego Bay where the seminar is being held. It is the first such seminar being held in Jamaica and ends today.

Mr. Seaga told seminar participants that by September 1982, a year ago following the setting up of the JNIP, there were 91 projects with capital investments of \$154.72 million and another 30 with an anticipated outlay of \$96.48 million in the finalised stage. He said that a close examination of these figures showed that the implementation rate had fallen while the larger number of projects within the finalised category had increased.

He also noted that the capital investment per project had maintained a steady average, from \$1.5 million in 1982 to \$1.66 million over the last nine months.

Mr. Seaga also announced eight new projects which he said were of major importance, and which, he said, should be in production late this year or early next year. Included is a major garment-manufacturing enterprise which will employ more than 4,000 people and occupy 201,000 square feet of factory space in the Kingston Free Zone. Also slated for the Free Zone is a watch-assembly operation.

There is to be a joint venture project between Jamaican and American companies for the production of ceramic tiles for export and this will involve an investment of about US\$10 million.

In St. James there is to be a data-processing project geared toward the export market, and according to Mr. Seaga, "one innovative feature about this project is that it is tied to a counter-trade deal between Jamaica and a major North American auto manufacturer."

Horticulture

In Port Antonio, the popular Frenchman's Cove Hotel is being leased and is to have an injection of US\$7 million to revitalise and expand it in time for the 1984 winter tourist season.

Another US\$11 to US\$15 million is to be spent on an ornamental-horticulture project initiated by North American interest and targeted for the European market.

In Trelawny, the 1,000 acres Aloe Vera pilot project is to move into full

production in a short while, and an export food-processing project is to move into full implementation during the first quarter of next year.

Mr. Seaga also disclosed that bonings and soil tests for the US\$30 million Caribbean Media Centre, slated for Montego Bay had been completed and the list of contractors to tender was finalised this week.

Support from U.S., Canada

On Friday night, the seminar was addressed by Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica, Mr. David Reece, who said his country supported the Ca-

ribbean Basin Initiative, and for itself was committed to continuing its programme of assistance to Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean.

Addressing the seminar on Saturday was the U. S. Secretary of Commerce, Mr. Malcolm Baldrige. He urged business executives to invest in Jamaica and to make use of the opportunities of the CBI.

According to Mr. Baldrige, Jamaica would most likely be included in the first group of beneficiary countries which is to be announced in November.

He said the CBI was "a long-term bi-partisan commitment of promoting economic progress in this area. It was just as important for the United States as it was for Jamaica and the other countries in the area."

Mr. Baldrige said from the U.S. Government's point of view the CBI represented "a job gained". He said the U.S. strongly supported Prime Minister Seaga and his encouragement of the free market. "We strongly urged investors to consider what Jamaica has to offer," he said.

Wyndham, the co-sponsor of the seminar is now in the final stage of negotiations for leasing the New Kingston Hotel in addition to the Rose Hall Beach Hotel and Country Club, in Montego Bay which has just completed a U.S. \$3.5 million refurbishing.

SEAGA INAUGURATES AGRO 21; DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DESCRIBED

Press Conference Remarks

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 83 pp, 1, 18

[Text]

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said yesterday that the 17 sub-sector projects on the "A" list in AGRO 21 which were "on-going projects for which negotiations had already been completed", would provide employment for 38,000 persons and foreign exchange earnings of \$450 million over four years.

These projects which were winter vegetables, bananas, coffee, ethnic crops, tobacco, coconuts, rice, afforestation, citrus, honey, aloe vera, ornamental horticulture, orchard crops, aquaculture, dairy, beef and cocoa would cover a total area of 87,673 acres.

Mr. Seaga, who was speaking at a press conference at Jamaica House to explain details of AGRO 21, said: "If the negotiations for the other 10 projects are successful, then the employment content will increase to 104,000 and the foreign exchange earnings will move up to \$915 million".

He said the figure of 104,000, representing the total employment content in the programme, included

would enable the enterprise to be profitable, and so enable the farmer to repay his loans and also derive a reasonable return.

With regard to his statement that the advanced technology to be used by the large commercial holdings within the Production Centres would cause "knowledge radiation" among the small farmers around, Mr. Seaga was asked what steps were being taken to ensure that this radiation of knowledge took place at the management level to prepare Jamaicans to take over from management which came from abroad.

In reply, he said it was government's policy to ensure that Jamaicans are trained to take over such positions, but it would take some time to select the most suitable persons for such training.

He said that a second presentation of AGRO 21 would be made in the rural areas, on a date to be announced.

SO FAR AS SMALL FARMERS operating within these Production Centres were concerned, they would be placed on holdings, on the understanding that they produce the crops which had been earmarked for the particular zone. Such farmers would be producing on the basis of a transfer of technology and would be provided with the necessary inputs to make them efficient.

He said that already such a project had been working successfully at Meylersfield, where yields in excess of two tons per acre were being produced on rice cultivation there.

The Prime Minister emphasized that whatever expenditure was put into infrastructural development in these Production Centres would be to promote efficiency of the operation.

In response to questions about loan funds being made available to persons interested in participating in AGRO 21, the Prime Minister said that much more planning needed to be done in this area.

"More lending has to be done on the basis of crop liens; and crop liens depend on whether the crop is profitable. And too many crops in Jamaica are unprofitable", he said.

AGRO 21 had been designed to make sure that crops were produced with the kind of technology that

the 38,000 jobs in the "A" list and those to be created under the "B" and "C" lists, if the negotiations for the additional 10 projects succeed. He also pointed out that the total figure of \$915 million of projected foreign exchange earnings embraced the \$450 million which the projects on the "A" list would bring in.

The Prime Minister, who answered a number of questions on AGRO 21 which is based on a new approach to land use and provides for the development of 200,000 acres of unutilized and under-utilized land, said that most of the 141,000 acres which had been so far identified were Government lands.

He said that in the case of the commercial projects to be developed in the Production Centres, the Government did not propose to sell any of the lands. In most instances, the Government had put in land as its equity in the project, and that equity would be held on its behalf by the Jamaica National Investment Company. The land would be rented or leased to the particular project enterprise.

List of Projects

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 83 pp 8, 9

[Text] THREE OF THE AIMS OF AGRO 21, which was officially launched at Kingston's Oceana Hotel on Thursday by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, are: 1) a reversal of the decline in agricultural export; 2) the development of other non-traditional export crops, and 3) the expansion of agricultural opportunities. The long-term goal is to complete full agricultural production on 200,000 acres of land comprising 27 sub-sectors over a period of four years.

Agro 21 is a new approach to agriculture on a national scale, and seeks to combine modern technology with proper planning and targeted markets to deal with agriculture on a business-like basis.

The Agro 21 programme will make use of large acreages of idle and under-utilized land.

A statement from the Agro 21 Secretariat says: "Because of the lack of emphasis over the years on production of agricultural products for export, Jamaica has been faced on with a situation in which it has not been able to

supply its available guaranteed markets or to take advantage of new opportunities as they present themselves. Agro 21 will give priority treatment to the reversal of these trends and to increase production on a steady programmed basis. It then lists the following:

1. BANANAS

Under Agro 21 the programmed expansion of banana cultivation is aimed at fulfilling Jamaica's U.K. market quota of 150,000 metric tons per year. Over a period of 4 years, a total of 12,000 acres of new varieties will be planted. By year 4, this project alone will satisfy approximately 60% of the quota or 93,000 tons.

2. COFFEE

Demand for Jamaica's Blue Mountain Coffee far exceeds production. To take advantage of this opportunity for earning foreign exchange, Agro 21, working with the Coffee Industry Board has identified 10,000 acres of land for expansion of production. Financing is already in place for the development of 6,000 acres of this. Lowland Coffee production is being expanded by 3,000 acres with the help of funding through the EEC to further boost foreign exchange earnings from this product.

3. CITRUS

This product is aimed at increasing the export of fresh fruits, fruit juice, fruit preserves, canned fruit, concentrates and oils. Of the 6,000 acres planned for expansion, specific sites for 5,500 acres have been selected in St. Catherine, St. Elizabeth, Clarendon and Manchester to fulfill 92% of the planned programme. The development will be undertaken by the Citrus Growers Association under the loan financing provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Development Fund and the Government of Jamaica.

4. COCONUTS

Coconuts will be re-established as a dependable source of edible oils and fats. Production had declined by 30% between 1979 and 1982, and during that period imports rose by 85% in crude and refined coconut oil imports. Under Agro 21's programme of expansion, 500,000 trees will be planted each year over a 7-year period, utilising 35,000 acres of land. Of this, 10,162 acres have already been replanted. The project is being implemented by the Coconut Industry Board and is aimed at fully satisfying the national demand.

5. COCOA

Jamaican cocoa, including cocoa, powder, cocoa butter fat or oil, cocoa confectionery, plus shells, husks and waste, accounts for approximately \$12-million in exports, yet this volume represents only 1% of world demand.

Through a rehabilitation programme managed by the Cocoa Industry Board, 5,000 acres of small farmer holdings will be brought back into full production to boost output by approximately 46% over 4 years.

DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER CROPS

Aside from the present range of agricultural crops which we produce there are great opportunities available to Jamaica because of our proximity to main U.S. and Canadian markets, and special trading arrangements with Europe for a range of exports not now in production. Agro 21, using modern technology will develop a wide range of these new crops for existing markets.

Winter Vegetables

Comprising a mix of green peppers, honey dew melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet peppers, sweet corn, okra and snap beans, winter vegetables will be produced for export to U.S. and Canadian markets during the winter months when their domestic production is reduced. The U.S. market for this range of production was estimated at US \$3,000 million in 1982, and selected market strategies will target on gaining market shares in the U.S., Canada and the E.E.C. to an equivalent of 10% of the U.S. market.

A total of 6,398 acres out of a planned 8,000 acres have been identified. Firm investments have been concluded for 1,515 acres whilst negotiations are going on for another 4,883 acres. The majority of investors in this area have links with vegetable markets in North America and Europe.

Horticulture

In 1982 Jamaica exported ornamental horticulture totalling \$3 million to 15 countries. Agro 21 is aiming at bringing into cultivation 1,000 acres more of flowers and 700 acres of foliage by 1986 to increase Jamaica's share of existing markets and earn approximately \$29 million by 1986. Development of nursery and cultivation acres have begun. Specific sites suitable for these crops have been identified in Clarendon, St. Mary, St. Catherine, St. James, St. Thomas and St. Andrew.

Orchard Crops (Mango, Avocado, Guava, Lychee, Ackee and Papaya)

This project is aimed at expanding Jamaica's export markets to the U.K., Canada, U.S.A., Australia, Switzerland, New Zealand, Bermuda and the Netherlands, for fresh, canned and preserved products. So far investments in 40 acres of these crops in Clarendon have been committed. Preliminary discussions are also being held for the development of 4,760 acres in 6 parishes.

Fish/Shrimp

This project is aimed at launching the commercial production of shrimp and fish for export to inland states of the U.S. and Canada initially. The strategy is to use marginal productive agricultural lands to create nursery and brooding ponds for shrimp and fish, and provide other facilities for processing, packing and freezing. Emphasis will be on perfecting production techniques in order to create a base for the general

development of an aqua-culture sub-sector, and 73 tons of shrimp which in 1982 together cost us \$7.5 million.

Already 674 acres are in production in St. Elizabeth, Clarendon, Trelawny, Westmoreland, St. Thomas and St. Catherine.

A number of new crops and expansion of existing opportunities will take place in rural Jamaica thereby laying the foundation for the development of Agro industrial opportunities on a wide scale.

Aloe Vera

This project is geared to cultivating Aloe Vera (known in Jamaica as "Single bible") in commercial quantities to provide Aloe extract for export to the North American market. This product is in great demand in the world for use in the medicinal and cosmetic industries. As a spin-off of the cultivation of this product, factories are programmed to be established for the manufacture of Aloe Vera gel and eventually the production of Aloe extract.

This crop is labour intensive throughout the year and can be grown on marginal land to provide continuous income to farmers. The crop yields a high income and is suitable for small farmer cultivation.

So far, 1,000 acres have been identified on a 1-acre-to-a-farmer basis. Five nurseries totalling 75 acres are now being planted and construction of an Aloe Vera gel factory is scheduled to start in February, 1984, at Fague, near Falmouth in Trelawny.

Beef

The strategy for the development of beef production embraces small, medium and large farms. New technology to upgrade stock will be introduced, using embryo transplants and artificial insemination to carry out an intensive breeding programme using local heifers. By year 5 of the Agro 21 period, production will have reached the level for imports in 1982 which stood at about 3 million lbs. Negotiations have been finalised for investment on 2,526 acres in 3 parishes, while preliminary discussions are being held for private investment covering 23,000 acres in two parishes.

The spin-offs of increased beef production will lead to the development of the leather, bone meal, resin and tallow industries.

Bee-Keeping

Young people will form the initial thrust in rejuvenating bee-keeping in Jamaica. Firm commitments have been made in this direction by several youth organisations under the guidance of the Ministry of Youth and Community Development, and 1,065 hives have already been assigned to this aspect of the project. Jamaica's export in 1982 totalled 8,000 gallons. The projection is for a production of 48,700 gallons in 5 years and 506,500 gallons valued at \$6 million in 10 years.

IMMEDIATE GOALS

Immediately, Agro 21 is looking at the development of 185,000 acres of land of which 87,673 acres have already been committed to 81 projects covering 17 subsectors as follows:

SUB-SECTORS	ACREAGE	IDENTIFIED PROJECTS
1. Winter Vegetables	1,515	4
2. Bananas	5,385	2
3. Coffee	7,390	6
4. Ethnic Crops	7,000	13
5. Tobacco	1,000	12
6. Coconuts	21,000	1 all island
7. Rice	4,600	3
8. Afforestation	28,370	3
9. Citrus	5,500	2/3/4
10. Honey	1,065 Hives	1 all island
11. Aloe Vera	1,000	5 nurseries
12. Ornamental Horticulture	208	25
13. Orchard Crops	40	1
14. Aquaculture	674	6
15. Dairy	open	2
16. Beef	2,526	3
17. Cocoa	3,500	4
Total	87,673	81

* Negotiations are to be concluded with investors for the resuscitation of 3,882 acres in St. Thomas, Portland, St. James and Clarendon.

Note:

1. 6 major financial projects encompassing a large number of smaller projects.

2. This covers all Coconut Industry Board growers throughout the island.

3. 2 major funded projects encompassing various citrus areas in 4 parishes.

4. Several areas in various parishes.

Within these sub-sectors 9 projects are already in place. Twenty-two more projects are in the final stages of planning.

PNP OFFICIAL ASSUMES LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PORTLAND

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 83 p 18

[Text]

Buff Bay, Pd., Oct. 13

(From our correspondent):

Dr. Paul Robertson, General Secretary of the Peoples National Party, is to take over the party's political organisation of Portland.

This was disclosed by PNP President and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley, at a PNP fund-raising function at the Port Antonio Secondary School on Saturday, October 8. But the PNP has not yet decided on its candidate for Portland for the next general election.

Mr. Manley said the PNP was currently holding a series of political seminars throughout the island and interested persons would have to attend these seminars so that they could be aware of the present political/economic crises of the Third World and also understand democratic socialism at all levels.

He criticised the government's economic plan, stating that the money that the JLP had spent to im-

port cars, videos and colour TVs should have been spent on farming. Mr. Seaga and his government had turned their backs on agriculture and that was why the government had to keep sealed lips on the economic condition of the country because they could not tell the people anything pertaining to agriculture.

The money raised from the dinner would be used to reorganise and restructure the party. Mr. Manley said. In closing, he said that both seats in Portland would help to decide the PNP victory at the next general election. He urged the cheering party supporters to get themselves enumerated and to encourage others to be enumerated. Several party supporters pledged between \$300 to \$1,500, individually, to the party's fundraising.

Miss Portia Simpson commended those who pledged and said that they would not regret because the PNP was going to de-

liver them out of the hands of the "Deliverance Government."

PNP FORMS 12 TASK FORCES TO DESIGN ECONOMIC PLAN

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Oct 83 p 18

[Text]

President of the Peoples National Party, Mr. Michael Manley, has announced the setting up of 12 Task Forces to work on a comprehensive economic plan which will be presented to the Party's delegates conference for approval next May.

Mr. Manley said the plan was likely to have an impact on the Party's Principles and Objectives in an attempt to achieve a "mutual understanding" from the private sector which he said was having a "change of heart" towards the PNP.

The Task Forces and Chairmen are, for Agriculture, Senator Desmond Leaky; Manufacturing, Mr. Barclay Ewart; Tourism, Mr. Frank Pringle; International Trade, Commerce and Distribution, Mr. Derek Heaven; Education, Culture and Sports, Senator Hugh Small; Health, Senator Mary Seiwright; Utilities, Senator Carlyle Dunkley; Housing, Mr. Easton Douglas; National Mobilisation and Democratisation, Mr. Michael Manley; State Bureaucracy, Dr. Edwin Jones; Crime Violence and Law Reform, Senator Carl Rattray and Information, Mr. Hartley Nera.

Mr. Seymour Mullings and a team of economists headed by Dr. Omar Davies are responsible for co-ordination and evaluation of the exercise.

Speaking at a press conference at the PNP's Headquarters on Thursday, Mr. Manley said that the Task Forces would bear in mind the constraints of foreign exchange shortage, the chronic deficit in the fiscal budget and the limits on the ability of the State Bureaucracy to implement, especially in the case of productive projects.

THE TEAMS WILL CONDUCT their work bearing in mind factors such as the analysis of the Jamaican situation adopted by the 1983 conference, an overall analysis of the country's resources and basic needs, now being prepared, and the basic policies of the Party as set out in its Principles and Objectives.

Mr. Manley said the Task Forces would be seeking the views of many individuals and interest groups in Jamaica, regardless of their political persuasion, adding that sectoral bodies, professional groups and individual

experts would be invited to contribute their ideas.

"We are approaching this project from a national viewpoint as we believe that no economic plan in this country has any chance of success unless it includes the experience and confidence of all groups, sectors and individuals whose full participation will be required to make it work," he said.

The PNP was convinced that no economic plan could succeed unless the people who needed to make it work were completely involved and it needed to secure the experience and knowledge of those responsible for the various sectors.

To this end Mr. Manley stated that the Party wished to meet with sectoral organisations such as the JMA, JEA, PSOJ, Small Businesses Association, Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, the JHTA, the Masterbuilders Association, the JTA, JAS, and the Medical Association of Jamaica. The inputs of the trade unions would be sought and they would be invited to participate as fully as possible in the exercise.

The entire exercise, which was six months behind schedule, Mr. Manley told newsmen, was being conducted on the basis of seeking widest national participation and interested members of the public were encouraged to send their views and suggestions in writing.

THE PNP PRESIDENT said that the economic plan would lay the basis for the Party's Manifesto to be put before the electorate at the next General Elections.

It was also likely that the plan would impact on the Principles and Objectives of the Party in terms of an attempt to change some of its ideas as to what the boundaries might be in order to reach a "mutual understanding" between the Party and the private sector, Mr. Manley said.

He also conceded that there was a significant "change of heart" by the private sector toward the Party since the last General Elections.

"We accept that our prime responsibility is to oppose those policies, programmes and projects in-

riated by the Government of the day which we do not believe are in the interest of the people and the country." However, Mr. Manley recognised the importance of the Party preparing itself to assume the solemn responsibility whenever the people decide through elections that it should be the Government of Jamaica.

The decision on the Task Force arose from the Party's annual conference last year at which a Commission was set up to start the ground work. The recent conference charged the Commission with the responsibility of preparing a social and economic plan which would be the base on which the PNP would implement its policies and programmes when it was returned as the Government of Jamaica, Mr. Manley said.

CSO: 3298/122

BRIEFS

INDIAN ENVOYS--The new Indian High Commissioner to Jamaica His Excellency Ram Lall arrived in Jamaica on September 3 and presented his credentials to the Governor-General on September 14. His previous postings include Nepal--a neighbouring country of India, Ghana, Hong Kong, Ethiopia and the U.S.A. His Excellency who is widowed is the father of three boys. Another new arrival at the Indian High Commission is Mr. Deepak Misra, Second Secretary. He arrived here on September 25 accompanied by his wife Savithri and two daughters. His previous postings were in Pakistan, Canada and Uganda. In his spare time he likes playing cricket, badminton and football. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 83 p 6B]

TIES WITH ARGENTINA--The Argentine Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Ignacio E. Pico Estrada has said that he will do his utmost to bring his country and Jamaica closer. The ambassador who arrived here on July 19, 1983 said that he admired this country's pluralist society and the respect of its people for the principles of democracy. He expressed the most warm wishes for the peaceful development and the prosperity of the Jamaican nation. His Excellency's previous posting was to Guyana where he was Ambassador for two and a half years. He has also served his country in New Orleans, San Francisco, Zurich, Geneva, Portugal and the Holy See. He has participated in various commissions at home and abroad, and is the recipient of the following decorations: Order of San Silvestre - The Holy See, First Class Cross of the Military Order of Malta, Order of the Infante Don Enrique. The ambassador who is married, likes travelling, meeting people, visiting places of historic interest, classical music, reading and golf. He is very impressed with Jamaican art and craft. Hanging in his office is a reproduction of the Argentine Coat of Arms carved in wood by talented Jamaican artist Hylton Nembhard. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 23 Oct 83 p 5B]

PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR--New Peruvian Ambassador, His Excellency Augusto Dammert arrived here on July 3, 1983 and presented his credentials to the Governor-General on July 13. Before his appointment here, he was Ambassador to Nicaragua for three years. His other overseas postings were--Argentina, 1943 to 1945 and Spain 1949 to 1950. In Peru, he also worked in the Public Service, private enterprise and was an elected mayor for the district of San Isidro from 1964 to 1969. The Ambassador's wife, Gracia, was born in Guayaquil, Ecuador. A nature lover, His Excellency plans to travel extensively through the island meeting people and enjoying the beauty of the Jamaican countryside. His other interests are photography and culture. [Text] [Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 23 Oct 83 p 5B]

ASSURANCES ON SUGAR INDUSTRY--"There are no plans to scrap the sugar industry", said Prime Minister Edward Seaga, as he addressed a press conference on AGRO 21 at Jamaica House, on Friday. Mr. Seaga, who was responding to questions about the future of sugar, said the industry had run into difficulties because over the years, the factories had been run down and the equipment had not been replaced. However, a block of funds had been identified, and he had assured the cane farmers that certain repairs would be carried out, in time for the start of the 1983-84 sugar crop. Divestment of sections of the industry, was among the proposals that were being looked at, and he promised that within the next two weeks, the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Dr. Percy Broderick, would be making an important announcement with regard to the industry. Questioned about the fact that sugar was a major foreign exchange earner, yet seemed to lack the foreign exchange necessary to effect repairs and replacement of machinery, the Prime Minister said all foreign exchange earned by the various export industries were placed in a pool, and from that pool the government made allocations, based on priorities. He said the sugar industry was one of several industries which were also short of foreign exchange. [Text] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 18 Oct 83 p 1]

WATER-SHORTAGE LAYOFFS--Jamaica Food Processors Ltd. (JFP) of Bull Savannah, St. Elizabeth, has laid off 150 workers and may soon lay off 75 more employees, if water supplies which have been cut off by illegal water tapping and a National Water Commission (NWC) pump failure, are not restored. The water shortage affecting this company, which has reportedly been selling \$3-4 million worth of canned juices and foods per year, has also put the livelihood of some 1,500 to 2,000 fruit and vegetable suppliers in St. Elizabeth and other parishes in jeopardy. Mr. Michael DeLeon, Managing Director of Jamaica Food Processors Ltd., said on Wednesday that the company "would not be able to fulfil contracts with its suppliers of tomatoes, ackees, pineapples and other crops -when the crops come in." Also at stake are the jobs of seventy-five of the food processing and technical employees who remain at the company. The entire work force was non unionized. JFP, which uses 30,000 gallons of water a day at peak operation, has not received water from its pipes in the last six to eight weeks, and has been using supplies of trucked water to can limited supplies of ackees during the last week. [Excerpt] [Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Oct 83 p 15]

CSO: 3290/124

DIFFERENCES NOTED AT CARACAS MEETING OF 'CONTRA' LEADERS

Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 25 Sep 83 pp 39, 41, 43, 44, 47

[Article by Valerio Riva: "Starting Again With Zero"]

[Text] This is an exclusive investigative report of the anti-Sandinist guerrilla warfare leaders. They are divided among themselves on almost everything, but they believe they can win. Thanks to Eden Pastora's insight...

Caracas--It was a little after noon when a tall, athletic, well-dressed man, with short, white hair and long white sideburns, walked into the large, crowded banquet hall of the Hilton Hotel in Caracas. This was 50-year-old Adolfo Calero, who was born in Managua, is a university professor, a conservative, and a successful businessman. It was his job, prior to 19 July 1979, to obtain funds for the fight against Somoza. Now he is one of the leaders of the Nicaraguan armed opposition in the Sandinist regime. He made his way among the photographers and the television cameras, raised a hand, interrupted the speaker on the platform and said: "I have two news announcements to make, a good one and a bad one." The speaker stopped talking; the buzzing ceased. "First, the good news: this morning, at 0600 hours, two planes belonging to Eden Pastora's formations bombed Managua's airport and hit the control tower. At the same time, further north, an FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] commando attacked the Puerto Sandino terminal of the Nicaraguan oil pipeline. The oil pipeline is in flames." The audience sprang to its feet. Shouts, embraces, applause. But Calero shouted: "And this is the bad news: one of the planes was downed; the pilot is dead." The hall was suddenly silent.

For 36 hours the anti-Sandinist guerrilla warfare leaders had been gathered together in this Hilton fortress, besieged by television cameras and bodyguards. All but three, as we shall see later. They were invited here for a semi-public conference on the current situation regarding Nicaraguan policy. The conference was organized by an association that is known by the name of UNICA. It appears that UNICA is backed one-third by the owners of the biggest daily in Caracas, EL UNIVERSAL, and two-thirds by a Venezuelan multi-millionaire, a blond, young man, who every once in a while quietly attended the proceedings. Ten years ago, his brother was seized by leftist guerrilla fighters, was killed in an atrocious manner and returned in pieces, in a wooden box, to his family. Since then the multi-millionaire has been spending great amounts for revenge.

The conference was to last 4 days, from 6 to 9 September. There thus was no better observation post to finally understand, at close range, who these leaders of the opposition are and what is behind the war that they are fighting against their former companions who are now their mortal enemies: the nine communist commanders of the Managua Junta, Tomas Borges, the Ortega brothers, and the others. For Nicaragua the moment was important, perhaps decisive. Calero's announcement marked the beginning of a new phase. There no longer was just a border guerrilla warfare; now the political heart of the country and its productive infrastructure were being attacked directly, and with bold, spectacular actions. And yet, as never before, this guerrilla oddly seemed so divided. How did it happen? Why? Let's see.

The first thing that was noted was that everyone was greatly and terribly tense. As a matter of fact, those 4 days were very wearying. Continuous ups and downs. The first day tens of witnesses dramatically related cases of conscience and of persecution, disastrous statistics, and gloomy lists of persons who had been killed. It was not a pleasant day. During the morning of the second day there was Calero's announcement, and the burst of enthusiasm. Then, in the afternoon, the dampening of the enthusiasm: almost immediately polemics broke out among the various factions and the day ended in confusion. The next morning, more enthusiasm: the news arrived that Pastora's planes had attacked and set fire this time to the gasoline storage tanks of the port of Corinto, on the Pacific coast. Then, that night, another disappointment (perhaps the bitterest of all): boxer Alexis Arguello, a man of the people of Managua, former anti-Somoza hero, three times world champion, who became the idol of the opposition when he chose exile last year, was irreversibly K.O.'d by the American black man, Aaron Pryor. The guerrilla fighters wept, out of sports vexation, and out of political vexation. But here, too, they were divided: some saw the match in one room, some in another.

Something new? Not at all. There has always been discord within the anti-Sandinist guerrilla. And it often became a real confrontation between the two fighting fronts, the northern front and the southern front. In the north, at the border with Honduras, the FDN (2,000 armed men; many weapons, including heavy ones; but mediocre logistics; and a small supply of the means of air transport). Beside the FDN, a part of the UDN [National Democratic Union], commanded by a famous anti-Somoza guerrilla fighter, Fernando Chamorro, called "the black man," with more than 2,000 men put in the field by the Miskito Indians, a poor people on the Atlantic coast, organized into a sort of primitive communism, and of Protestant religion (in the midst of a highly Catholic nation). But the Miskitos are poorly armed, poorly financed, and even more poorly equipped. (Their chief, Stedman Fagott, begged in the Caracas Hilton for money to buy 1,500 pairs of military boots.)

In the south, the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], that is, the men of Eden Pastora (the legendary Commander Zero, who in Somoza's time occupied, and held in check for 3 days, the powerful national guard, the parliament of

Managua, including all of the members of parliament and the ministers). Along with the ARDE there is another part of the UDN, with one of its historic leaders, engineer Alfonso Robelo (a manufacturer who has spent almost all of his capital, first against Somoza, and now against the Junta); in addition, another part of the Miskitos, commanded by Brooklyn Rivera. Mostly light weapons, no more than \$200,000 a month in cash for the maintenance of almost 3,000 men; but in return a rudimentary air fleet, 7 small planes bought third hand; about 20 pilots, Sandinist deserters or former Nicaraguan airline employees; in addition, a pair of rudimentary airports amid the swamps of the lower course of the San Juan River, toward the Atlantic.

Of all these leaders, as previously said, three were missing here in Caracas: one from the north, Chamorro; and two from the south, Pastora and Brooklyn Rivera. All the others were here. But what really divided them? What did they criticize each other for?

Apparently those in the southern front criticized those in the northern front for being former followers of Somoza. In turn, those in the northern front, criticized the south for having been in the Sandinist government until a few months ago and for continuing to be profoundly Marxist-leninist. But this is only the appearance of things. The 4 days in Caracas showed a much more significant, confused tension.

For example, the third day it was very clear that the north wanted to achieve unity with the south at all costs, provided it could be achieved in the shortest time possible. The south refused this all day long until, at 1900 hours, the rupture seemed irreparable. After that an attempt was made at amends. A very long meeting was started behind closed doors. Finally, at midnight, it was possible to sign a joint statement of agreement. But a very vague one. But the next morning Robelo suddenly left. Recalled by Pastora? Maybe. However, any further attempt at agreement has remained up in the air.

Why did the north so intensely want unity? We can hazard a guess. The north is the one that receives money and weapons, more or less openly, from the United States; but its bad reputation--too many conservatives, too many former Somoza followers in its ranks--puts Reagan in an awkward position; he on the other hand needs the support of at least a part of the democratic party. By achieving unity with the south, then, the FDN and the entire north would give themselves a new coating of democracy. It might be expedient for Reagan, too.

And why does the south oppose unity? Because at this time, more than weapons and money, it needs legitimate allies and a good international image: Eden Pastora realizes that this is not easy to achieve. Including last year and this year, Commander Zero twice made the rounds of European and Latin American social democratic parties. The only one to welcome him with open arms was Portuguese Soares. All the others closed their door in his face. But Pastora is not one to give up. And last month he succeeded in making a big hit: he

attracted the Christian Democratic International to his side. One more proof that Pastora is one, as is known, who does not lack ideas (nor the boldness to carry them out). In difficulty on land, he made a sudden attack on the Sandinists by air. His friends are saying that he will make his next move by sea.

Does the dispute, then, lie in a sort of contest to see who will arrive first in Managua, the north or the south? It is not clear. First, because the Sandinist regime, even though greatly weakened by the people's passive resistance and by the economic crisis, is not yet at the point of collapse. And then because it is not at all certain that Pastora (and Robelo) really want to arrive in Managua with weapons in hand. In fact, this is precisely what worries the FDN most.

Until a few months ago, Pastora was a deputy minister in the Manguan government. He is still very popular with the Nicaraguan left. Commander Zero is still the same, and that is seen in the way he fights. Furthermore, Pastora knows very well that the government of Managua is also deeply divided internally: first, along three lines; now, it seems, only two; but it is precisely on this polarization that Pastora's friends are betting. And the guerrilla warfare that they intend to conduct, more than being a series of battles from tree to tree, from house to house, is a spectacular war--an informational, televised, electronic war. The economic crisis, the food crisis, unemployment, the unwillingness to participate in the new obligatory military service, and finally the conflicts within the government and Managua's new class will do the rest.

Other indications pointing to this political choice of Pastora became apparent in Caracas: for example, from the ideas expressed here by his economic adviser, Donald Castillo. He is the one who was interrupted when Adolfo Calero made the announcement of the bombing of Managua. When Calero finished speaking, in the great silence that followed the announcement, Castillo slowly rearranged his papers on the podium and finally continued to speak. Castillo is young, about 40, with a sweater and the appearance (and the eyeglasses) of an American intellectual. An economist, he was adviser to Allende. Then, with the death of Allende, he went to work with the Mexican government. In the meantime, he prepared the economic plan of the Sandinist Front. But after the victorious revolution, he was set aside in Managua. He then returned to Mexico. Now he is with Pastora.

Before Calero interrupted him, Castillo was precisely exhorting the audience to avoid a scorched earth military policy: "This time," he said, "no one will again give us, as they did the other time, \$1,500 million. Let us therefore not make any mistakes in the choice of targets to be hit. Let them truly be military targets, not industrial targets." When he went on to speak, he hesitated for a moment: he, too, as in the case of the pilots who bombed the civilian airport and set fire to the oil pipeline, belongs to the ARDE. The

hall, on the contrary, was full of FDN supporters who do not like him or his ideas, or his leftist professor sweater. They waited in vain. Castillo slowly said: "I am not the one who chooses the targets. In any case, today's choice suits me. But for only one reason: it may serve to end this war sooner."

8255

CSO: 3528/10

BRIEFS

IMPROVED CONDITIONS FOR FARM LABORERS--The National Financial System has announced that it will offer financing of up to 78 million cordobas for the immediate improvement and expansion of the encampments on coffee and cotton farms. This financing has been designated a "Special Credit," since it is considered nonreimbursable. Thirty-six million of this amount will be invested in the infrastructure of coffee plantations, and 42 million in cotton plantations. Approval of this loan fulfills the responsibility which the national government has for protecting the life, health and conditions of work of farm workers. The majority of these farms do not have drinking water or privies. The workers sleep in crowded conditions and they receive poor fare. Thus a step is taken toward assuring healthful, safe and decent working conditions for farm workers. [Text] [Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Oct 83 p 10] 12383

COFFEE EXPORTS--Managua. Coffee exports to the world market for the 1982-83 agricultural period have to date reached a total of 1,449,796 quintals, exceeding by 20 percent the figure initially estimated. Total exports were initially estimated at 1.2 million quintals, while the harvest for the same agricultural cycle exceeded preliminary calculations of 1.4 million quintals, and reached about 1.6 quintals. Exports of coffee, a product which brings in one-third of the foreign currency which enters the country, were principally destined to the Federal Republic of Germany, Holland, the German Democratic Republic, Algiers, Bulgaria, the Soviet Union and France. Of the total for export, Nicaragua allotted for the present year a total of 865,000 quintals of the coffee for distribution to the member countries of the International Coffee Organization [OIC], and only 40,000 quintals of this quota remain to be loaded. Nicaragua normally sets aside for domestic consumption some 200,000 quintals, which are sold to local distributors and roasting plants. The total of exports made to date reaches a total value of 125 million dollars, according to information from the Nicaraguan Coffee Board. [Text] [Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 24 Sep 83 p 10] 12383

NEW INCOME TAX POLICY--Next year persons with annual incomes of more than 60,000 cordobas will have to pay income tax, unlike the situation until 1983, when all those who earned more than 48,000 had to pay it. Comrade Silvio Vargas, director of Revenue Headquarters, gave this information to BARRICADA in the course of a report on the improvement of collection

goals anticipated this year on income tax account. It is expected that receipts will amount to some 900 million cordobas, well above the 675 million which experts at the Ministry of Finance had anticipated. Vargas cautioned that "the tax on net capital, which replaces the tax on movable property and real estate, will have to be declared and 50 percent paid before the 31st of next October. The remaining 50 percent will be payable in March of 1984." It is estimated that the state will collect some 300 million cordobas on account of the net capital levy. Vargas disclosed that for the first time, the forms for that declaration will be sold to the public at a price of ten cordobas at all offices of the revenue administration in the country. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Oct 83 p 5] 12383

COTTON COMBINES SPARE PARTS SHORTAGE--The basic problem of the future cotton crop is the absence of a harvesting plan and the urgent need for repair of 50 combines in poor condition, said a spokesman for the Farm Workers Association [ATC]. At the present time, some 83 will probably be usable out of a total of 150 in bad condition, but another 20 will not be able to be ready by harvesting time because of lack of dollars for the importation of spare parts. The unavailability of these combines means failing to cut some 150,000 quintals of cotton, or it means that that amount of cotton will have to be harvested by hand. Improvisers on cotton farms handicapped by machines in poor conditions have recovered more than a half-million cordobas in spare parts, produced from abandoned scrap. An inventory taken recently by the ATC indicates that the private sector has at least 21 combines in poor condition, for which reason a similar appeal is now being made to the mechanics of those enterprises to improvise spare parts in order to make these combines run. As with the coffee crop, the cotton crop requires manual labor, and this will be recruited from the Leon and Chinandega departments, and, if necessary, Managua would be able to contribute more hardworking production workers. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Oct 83 p 12] 12383

BRAZIL, CZECHOSLOVAKIA EXTEND CREDIT--Brazil and Czechoslovakia have extended new credits to Nicaragua for the purchase of machinery and equipment to be used to expand the repair the country's electric distribution lines. Yesterday, Ricardo Chavarria, deputy minister of INE [Nicaraguan Institute of Energy], acknowledged receipt of 18 cranes sent by officials of Brazil's Munck Hydraulic Equipment Company, S.A. as part of the credits obtained from that country; the value of this equipment is \$850,000. Chavarria also advised that 16 diesel electric plants, each with a capacity of 608 kva, were purchased in Czechoslovakia through credit of more than \$1 million granted by that country. Four of these plants arrived this month from Czechoslovakia and will be used to strengthen the electric energy service in some of the communities of Bluefields and Puerto Cabezas. [Text] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Oct 83 p 7] 8568

YUGOSLAVIA EXTENDS \$10 MILLION CREDIT--As the result of an official visit of a Nicaraguan delegation to Yugoslavia, headed by Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, Yugoslavia has granted Nicaragua credit in the amount of \$10 million for the purchase of equipment produced in Yugoslavia; a joint committee for bilateral cooperation was also established and a number of steps were taken relating to Yugoslav assistance in the economic sector. [Excerpt] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Oct 83 p 5] 8568

POST MORTEM ON RESULTS OF CENTRAL LEEWARD BY-ELECTION

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 16 Oct 83 p 12

[Article by Nora E. Peacocke]

[Text] THE 1983 Central Leeward by-election for a vacant seat in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines House of Assembly is now a matter of history. Since the seat reverted to the ruling St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP), the death of whose member made it vacant, there was virtually no change in the national political picture. However, there were a number of things, connected with the by-election, worthy of note.

More than 93 per cent of the eligible voters went to the polls. This percentage is large by any standard, and showed that the young people who were entitled to vote for the first time came out and exercised their right and responsibility.

Although Valcina Ash, the Labour Party candidate, won, the pattern of voting was very different from previous elections. A traditional Labour stronghold suddenly became a marginal seat. Ash beat the New Democratic Party's (NDP) Herbert Young by a mere 65 votes.

In spite of the opposition parties' refusal to unite into a single entity to fight for the change of government that all claim is essential to the peaceful progress of the nation, the electorate seems to have taken the matter into its own hands. Anti-labour voters literally concentrated their ballots on the NDP candidate. The SVLP got 1,398 votes, NDP, 1,333 votes, and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement, 31 votes.

Polling day was incident-free and top officials of the NDP have expressed satisfaction with the way the poll was conducted.

Representative

Mrs. Ash was a Government Senator before seeking election as the representative of the people of Central Leeward. Her place in the Senate has been taken by a young lawyer, Stanley "Stalky" John. The barrister has added to the new look of the Labour Party's senatorial group. Among Government senators, only Mrs Margaret Cato has served for as much as a year.

Hendrick Alexander, once an insurance agent and now the St. Vincent Labour Party secretary, took the place of Dennie Wilson when he was appointed Speaker of the House. Alexander judging by his relationship to the Ash by-election campaign, seems to have assumed the roll of the Labour Party's public relations man.

Burns Bonadie, well known regional trade unionist, left the prestigious job of Caribbean Congress of Labour treasure and became a Senator earlier this year. Both Bonadie and John are expected to contest the general elections in less than two years' time on SVLP tickets, as part of a plan to infuse "new blood" into the party elite.

However the economic sector of the nation is still troubled by the lack of planning being shown in political quarters. The Chamber of Industry and Commerce has written to the leaders of the five main political parties, asking them to attend five consecutive Monday night meetings at the University of the West Indies Extra Mural Centre in Kingstown and outline their plans for economic development to the Chamber.

Invitees

The political parties invited are: The St. Vincent Labour Party, led by Prime Minister, Milton Cato; The New Democratic Party, led by Opposition Leader James "Son" Mitchell; the United People's Movement, led by Oscar Allen and Renwick Rose; the St. Vincent and the Grenadines national Movement, led by Gideon Cordice, and the Movement for National Unity, led by Ralph Gonsalves.

The Chamber is traditionally a staunch supporter of Mr Cato and his SVLP. The three per cent traders turn-over tax threw something like a spanner into the works of complacent loyalty. But, quite apart from that, progressive elements in the community are becoming anxious over lack of plans and practically complete absence of dialogue between Government and business. Chambers of-ficials claim that their attempts at discussion are met by a "closed door".

A very interesting situation appears to be developing on the St. Vincent and the Grenadines political front. It is left to be seen if negative thinking and ideological fears will once again destroy positive attitudes aimed at the defeat of frustration, corruption and stagnation.

CSO: 3298/125

RADIO PROGRAM INCLUDING OPPOSITION CANCELLED; ROW ENSUES

Report on Government Action

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 83 p 7A

[Text]

Kingstown, St Vincent, Oct 15: Cana

Last weekend's cancellation by the St Vincent Ministry of Information of a radio phone-in programme on education that was to have involved an opposition spokesman, has brought a sharp rebuke from Opposition and Trade Union sources.

Sunday's unexplained cancellation of the programme on the state-owned Radio St Vincent made mockery of governments "terile rhetoric" on press freedom, said a statement published in "Unity", the newspaper of the Movement for National Unity, an opposition party.

The Radio had announced three panelists including Mike Brown, a former president of the St Vincent Union of Teachers (SVUT) and a prospective Parliamentary candidate of the opposition United Peoples Movement (UPM). Browne is co-ordinator of the Union's Adult Education Programme.

The other members of the panel were to have been University of the West Indies Extra-Mural Tutor Cameron King and Lennox John, Principal of Bishops College, Kingstown.

In a statement the Union of Teachers accused government of cancelling the programme because Browne was on the panel. It said the government had responsibility to promote discussion on an education system "plagued with many deep-seated problems no single individual or group of individuals could solve."

Teachers Union Protest

Kingston THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 Oct 83 p 11

[Article by Yvonne C. E. Francis-Gibson]

[Text]

St. Vincent Union of Teachers expresses its profound disgust and disappointment at Government's refusal to

allow the airing of the views of one of the most outstanding young educators in our country.

Mike Browne, S.V.U.T.'s Adult Education Co-ordinator, past lecturer of the Teachers' Training College and currently pursuing a doctorate in Adult Education was not permitted to participate in the panel discussion on the topic: 'Possibilities in Education'. This has resulted in the cancellation of an important discussion on the well received radio programme "Views on

Issues

It is the Union's view that in this age of rapid advancement in knowledge and, given the fact that our crisis-ridden educational system is plagued with many deep-seated problems, no single individual or group of individuals has the answer. Indeed, we believe the Government has the direct responsibility to promote national discussion on the issue so that ultimately, the entire nation becomes involved in the process of fashioning an education geared to our needs.

We submit that in a situation in which 30-50 per cent of the population are functionally illiterate the radio serves a vital role in educating the masses of our country. Indeed, we

feel that while it is its function to entertain, inform and educate it is its latter role that needs to be upgraded as a body of educators, the Union feels that the educational programmes on Radio 705 should be increased substantially so that our people may learn both formally and informally.

We submit also, that the nation is the poorer for having been denied the views of the panel generally and of Mike Browne specifically, who has delved deeply into the problem affecting education today.

We submit further, that the fact of being a politician (like Ministers of Government) can never mean that an individual must be denied the right of

contributing his skills and knowledge to the well-being of the country.

It is a fundamental contradiction to assume moral self-righteousness in the international forum and yet to condone or perpetrate acts of discrimination against one's own nationals.

S.V.U.T. calls on Government to rise above blind partisanship and to allow "Views on Issues" to proceed without interference. Specifically, we call for the programme - Possibilities in Education - to be pursued with the panel as constituted.

Where there is no vision the nation's future will founder on rocks of ignorance and blindness.

Review of Factors Involved

Kingstown THE VICENTIAN in English 14 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Zan Lewis]

[Text]

"It was a discriminative action". "He should have been allowed to speak and more respect should be given to the listening audience".

These are the views of the three panelists Mike Browne, Cameron King and Lennox John as they expressed dissatisfaction at the cancellation of the topic "Higher education and its relevance to national development" by the St. Vincent government.

This topic was intended to be debated upon by the three above named panelists on Radio St. Vincent last Sunday on the programme "Views on Issues", a programme organised by the Radio Station. After the debate there is usually a call in session where the public gets a chance to disagree or agree or make a contribution.

The Vincentian contacted the Resident Tutor of the Extra Mural Centre, UWI Mr. Cameron King, who noted that he was told that the inclusion on the panel of Mike Browne, an already named candidate of the United People's Movement, was the reason for the cancellation of the programme.

Mr King said that he has no brief for the St. Vincent government, and admitted that in the past governments were unwilling to grant official radio time to opposition politicians.

He noted that the radio station is not a statutory corporation, it is controlled and run by the government. He considered it not the best way to run a station but looking at the cancellation of the programme one has to look at both sides of the story. "Government is entitled to what ever policy it makes in relationship to air time," he said.

One has to look at the governmental problem, Mike Browne is an already named candidate on a political side which is ideologically opposed to government. Therefore, it is logical to assume that government will feel that Mike Browne on the panel would not simply be an educator but a politician. Past history has shown very conclusively that Mike Browne as a teacher of the Teachers Union has played a dual role as a teacher and a leading personality of Youlimo. And very frequently the two wires got crossed and it seemed that what's happening was that credit was being stolen by Youlimo for being the ideological party in the forefront of change at the teachers' level.

Questioned about the audience being considered before such an act, Mr King said that if he was to look at it from a governmental point of view he would be inclined to say, "I will want my audience to have the benefit of an unbiased discussion

where politics do not come into the issue. And if somebody is discussing a topic but has a political motive, then the topic is not likely to be discussed in an unbiased way, as should be for the benefit of the people." As a communicator, he would be more likely to say "Let the public decide for themselves and since there are other people on the panel who can balance the discussion." King further noted that if Mr. Browne at any time had attempted to use the topic to his political advantage the labour party supporters, members of government, including the Minister of Education would have been able to refute the situation by calling in by telephone.

Obviously, he said, government was not behaving any differently from other governments in the past in St. Vincent. It probably would not have been blown up if the propaganda machine of the UPM did not come into play very efficiently... as though Mr Browne is their God of Education.

Mr King concluded by saying that if government didn't want Mr Browne on the panel, he should have been removed and the programme allowed to continue, because, it is a subject of great importance to the audience.

Mr. Lennox John the Headmaster of the Bishop's College, Kingstown, expressed the view that the whole thing was badly handled, it should not have reached the stage that it did.

He considered the issue very political, and noted that more respect should be given to the listening audience and the panelists who were already prepared to have a fruitful discussion.

Mr. John however said that he was not blaming the radio station but the person or persons who cancelled the programme.

Mr. John had been asked to make up the panel after the Minister of Education, Mr. Deacon, found it inconvenient for him to participate and the Chief Educational Officer, Mr. Festus Toney, was unavailable.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mike Browne himself noted that he was told that the reason for the cancellation of the programme was because of his presence on the programme.

Apparently, he said it was because he was named a candidate in the upcoming general election. He however thinks that the real reason was that his analysis of the educational system differs considerably from the establishment's view. It differs in that, his analysis is critical and shows that education is a reflection of the economic system. The problems that we encounter in education, would be a reflection of the problems in the broader economy. Mr. Browne said.

Many people, he continued prefer things of that nature not to be said. He stressed the fact that he had never intended to be controversial, since the topic was dealing largely with education possibilities and opportunities in national development. He further noted that if he had said anything that people did not agree with,

the people had the opportunity to phone in and disagree and to question what was said. Browne declared that he was surprised that the government had acted in such a paranoid way. "Surprised because of the nature of the programme but not totally surprised given the nature of the government." That is, one which over the years had been veering that the station did not cancel the programme but was only following orders conveyed to them from the Ministry of Information under which the radio station falls. As regard to the reason given for the cancellation of the programme, Mr. John noted that he is in no position to relate information to the press. He advised me to contact Mr. James Pompey the Cabinet Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's office under whose portfolio the Ministry of Information falls.

Mr. John the producer of the programme "Views on Issues", noted that he saw no reason for the cancellation of the programme or he would not have planned it. The acting manager stated that the intended panel was the Minister of Education Mr. Deacon whom he felt after attending the meeting that dealt with the restructuring of the Universities could have given the depth of the matter. Mr. Cameron King who could have dealt with Tertiary Education, and Mike Browne from the St. Vincent Union of Teachers and who had a Masters in Education. Unfortunately, the Minister and the Chief Education Officer were unavailable. Lennox John then agreed to fill.

Mr. John stressed that the public was calling in expressing their disappointment. He felt that there were two factors why this happened. The station dealt with topics to which the people can relate and which affect their livelihood, and people were given the opportunity to express themselves, ask questions, and clarify certain things in the context of national development.

John noted that he is unaware of such policy as regards to not giving radio time to opposition politicians. He said that the station tends to deal with issues rather than persons; themselves and persons who can present the subject matter adequately.

In future, he said a number of things would have to be taken into consideration in planning programmes.

When Mr. Pompey was asked to give the reason why the programme was cancelled he bluntly said "No reason, we just cancelled it."

This statement was seconded by Mr. Stanley Branch who is also the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office.

Acting on information received on 705's Beach Splash Mr. John who is Acting Manager since Jean Duncan's absence in May, noted that information was received from the Ministry refusing radio time to broadcast their Beach Splash which was scheduled for Independence Day at Argyle. No reason he said was given.

Mr. John noted that the idea of the Beach Splash is to encourage the nation's leading entertainers, to bring a spirit of togetherness to Vincentians and to encourage a better public relations between Vincentians and the Radio Station.

Other programmes planned by the station for this year's Independence celebrations include a feature on the constitutional development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and a short story competition on the theme of Independence.

Last year the station's Beach Splash at Ottery Hall attracted a mammoth crowd and it was announced by the station that Beach Splash would be an annual event.

CONSALVES PROVIDES OVERVIEW OF MNU POLICY POSITIONS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 14 Oct 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

The third speaker in the Monday night series of talks sponsored by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Ralph Consalves made his delivery, October 10, at the Memorial Hall where by 8.15 pm there was standing room only.

The guidelines of the presentation on his party's political and economic plans for St. Vincent and the Grenadines by the Chairman of the Movement for National Unity were first, an overview of the contemporary political economy. Second, from this to formulate the broad principles and which the MNU rests its programme; and third, to articulate policies.

In his overview, Consalves characterised the political economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as "...a dependent, underdeveloped capitalist one with a deformed state capitalist twist ... at once corrupt, inefficient anti-worker and anti-developmental." For decades the economy had been understandably interwoven with the development of Western capitalism. However, in the last ten years, the state sector had become the dominant internal sector. The deformed character of this structure is at the basis of our economic problems. Furthermore, there has been a tendency to anti-democratic rule despite a Westminster constitution.

Because of the "economic dead end" the country finds itself in a crisis. However, the lesson of twentieth century history is that moments of crisis present moments for change. That "those who are pessimistic should take heart at the changes crisis has wrought".

Consalves identified thirteen major problems of the economy. These included, a highly unequal distribution of wealth, a low level of development among the productive forces (because of inadequate technology and poor attitudes to work), lack of central scientific economic planning and poor economic management, failing on stagnant agriculture, unemployment and sky rocketing prices and an antinational foreign policy, in economic matters.

The solution to these problems, he said could be detailed in a sectoral analysis. He turned then this point to the first of them, agriculture cannot by itself generate enough surplus to develop the country but must be the hub on which the

economy revolves. Manufacture, fisheries, tourism were other important sectors.

Focusing on the Sugar Industry he distinguished two extreme attitudes, both of which he considered unrealistic. Some, he said are "sucrophiles" who insist on maintaining the industry at all costs, even though it had become one of the "largest white elephants." Then there were the "sucrophobes" who see an 18th century crop that should be abandoned. Neither of these positions, but a scientific one, should be adopted and a careful look at the industry taken to see where the errors are. One, he was sure was an old factory, "a cross between a sieve and a coffee grinder." Another is political patronage in the distribution of land and allocation of jobs in the Sugar Industry.

Of the Banana Industry, he said, low yield but also marketing more problems. He questioned the question of pricing in pounds sterling and asked why in contract discussions the suggestion of a Banana Pound could not be put forward.

In the Arrowroot Industry, the World Bank had diagnosed "...a failure of marketing intelligence" and Brazil had been allowed to take the market. The farmers, he said, cannot take the burden of "a top-heavy administration" (the Arrowroot Association) and suggested that Crop Associations should be merged.

In the Public Sector, the speaker noted a number of features. One is an increasing tendency to burden the poor and working people with indirect taxation. Then, the MNU favours removal of the three percent tax because "...at a time of economic crisis, it makes no sense to tax the productive sector".

From the sectoral economic analysis he outlined "...seven economic pillars" on which the MNU's economic policy rested. One was the consolidation of private, state and co-operative sectors into a harmonious working arrangement. The question of the relationship between these sectors cannot be answered abstractly, and each aspect of the state sector must be examined. Two, the encouragement of foreign investment and technology to be consistent with national requirements, economic development and national in-

dependence. Three, the diversification of the economy four, scientific planning, research and training. Five, the reduction of foreign economic control through financial institutions and trading. Six, the pursuance of a growth policy designed to benefit the working people, involving the reduction of unemployment and a more equitable distribution of wealth. Seven, the deepening of regional economic ties beyond mere trading links to co-ordinated production.

He drew attention to the production of food, contemplating the recurrence of world wide food shortages. The shortages in Chad and Nigeria were possible here. St. Vincent must have a staple grain crop.

Training and the use of human resources particularly in the context of production must be emphasised. He was concerned about the disproportionately high expenditure in public administration.

As a matter of urgency Gonsalves said, a Workers Co-operative Bank must be established. He suggested financing from Credit Unions, a portion of the National Provident Fund and funds from foreign businesses who could pay a deposit towards severance pay (in case they withdrew their operations). From such a bank, loans could be made available to the workers and farmers of the country.

In summary, he addressed MINU's programme for a scientific, planned economy which would be well-diversified. The party was committed to a multi-party system, periodic elections and a judiciary and Civil Service free from political interference. "There are forces at large in the society seeking to undermine these things."

Progressive programmes for health, education, culture and the arts must be integrated with these economic measures, he implied the MINU's ability to help St. Vincent and the Grenadines "in attempting to move out of the vortex of underdevelopment."

In the question time period, Gonsalves said on the issue of a development plan for the Grenadines, that he supports political autonomy for the Grenadines within a unitary state. The Grenadines must be a special area for tourist development like referred to the Wallasey Davies Report. Special security arrangements were needed for "the soft underbelly" of the State. The infrastructure between islands must be improved.

On the question of the pricing of agricultural goods he said the "again lack of proper scientific

planning which relates agriculture to marketing caused problems. For example, carrot production does not meet quota requirements. The yield of Arrowroot per acre in 1956 was higher than it is today.

On the Westminster System, a popular topic in this forum, he wondered if rather than talking of abandoning it, we should question whether we have it in substance and not just in form. He said that proportional representation did not just in form. He said that proportional representation did not necessarily mean better government. Citing Israel as an example where the executive dominated parliament despite a proportional representation.

Invited for the reconstruction of local government was a more highly developed form amounting to a degree of political autonomy for the Grenadines and a system of Village Councils for St. Vincent. However rather than imposing a local government structure, he suggested the setting up of "a high powered commission" to explore the possibilities.

Poor attitudes to work go to the heart of our economic problems. Prior to the obvious necessity to improve skills through training, a National Literacy Programme to inculcate values was essential. Ownership of resources by workers and producers would go far to solving the problem, example Mesopotamia peasant farmers and Orange Hill Estates in relation to production.

He noted for example that the only increase in the manufacturing sector came from East Caribbean Flour Mills a joint venture between a local company, a Canadian firm and the Government.

He supported tax incentives for foreign companies operating here but stipulated that these must be harmonized within the context of CARICOM.

On the question of ideology, the MINU is a party of Socialist orientation advocating the technical, material basis for a better material and cultural life.

Chamber President Arthur Connell, was Chairman and Ken Lewis moved the vote of thanks.

The St. Vincent National Movement has accepted the invitation from the Chamber but awaits the return of Dr. Cordice who is at present away from St. Vincent. The Chamber has ruled out the possibility of continuing the session on Monday October 17, but anticipates the 24 as the date for the fourth address.

GOVERNMENT IMPOSES FOREIGN EXCHANGE, IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

Growth in Food Imports

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Oct 83 p 3

[Text]

THE ACCELERATED growth rate of the country's food import bill over the past decade ought to be a matter of serious concern to all, says Agriculture Minister Kamaludin Mohammed.

Speaking last night to the South Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Mohammed cited that between 1970 and 1982, the food import bill increased from \$103 million to \$904 million.

And between 1976 and 1983, changes in major categories revealed that meat and meat preparations increased from \$44 million to \$120 million; poultry products, eggs,

and honey increased from \$41 million or 12.8 per cent of food imports to \$144 million or 16 per cent of food imports.

Cereals and cereal preparations went from \$125 million to \$221 million, while feed stuff for animals jumped from \$27 million to \$127 million.

The Minister told the southern businessmen of three major constraints that were hampering agriculture.

Firstly, he said, there was a limited land resource base. This absolute land shortage for agriculture was aggravated by two factors — the perennial problem of flooding in low-lying areas, and the ever-increasing pressure of the demand for land for housing, infrastructural development, and provision of social services.

Secondly, there was the unavailability of an assured supply of labour for critical periods, while the third constraint was the depressed prices for agricultural commodities in the world market.

Request for Sugar Imports

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Oct 83 p 4

[Text]

TRINIDAD Food Products Limited (Nestle) is approaching the authorities for permission to import granulated sugar directly from overseas suppliers to

meet public demand for sweetened condensed milk which is now totally unavailable.

According to an official from the company the 11 weeks

without sugar have seriously upset the production stream at the \$100 million Valsayn plant.

With the exception of coffee and unsweetened juices, every one of the company's nearly two dozen products has a sugar content. This includes flavoured milk, juices and drinks.

They are all adversely affected by the shortage. No condensed milk has been manufactured for several weeks, and

there are no stocks in the company's warehouse.

The situation is also causing severe under-utilisation of workers and machinery. Losses are running into the millions of dollars as the giant factory gears down its operations.

The official added that the outlook is not much more cheerful for coffee. Because of arrangements regarded by farmers as unsatisfactory, the '82-'83 coffee

crop was not reaped, so that for the first time since the factory was built 21 years ago, no local beans are available.

Supplies are now being imported for conversion into Nescafe.

The existing TFPI, work force is about 450. In July, a \$25 million expansion was launched to provide for greatly increased production of juices and drinks.

The new plant, to be known as Valsayn II,

and employing a further 100 persons, will start operating next year and it's expected that current usage of some 15 containers of granulated sugar per week, will go up to about 20.

Recall of Import Licenses

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Oct 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers yesterday recalled all import licences approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in a bold move to conserve foreign exchange reserves.

The austerity measure was implemented following consultation with the Central Bank after the country's official foreign reserves dropped by \$1,215 million to \$5,504.5 million at the end of September 30 last.

Prime Minister Chambers, speaking at the new session of Parliament yesterday told the House of Representatives that holding a licence and or a Form EC 1 approved by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce will no longer entitle an importer to purchase foreign exchange or authorise a bank to sell foreign exchange.

All approved Forms EC 1 in respect of the import of merchandise against which the total sum of authorised foreign currency has not yet been purchased must be returned to the Central Bank for re-validation.

Persons wishing to obtain foreign exchange for the purchase of imported goods will first have to apply on a new form (Form EC 0) to the Central Bank which will authorise it, advance the amount of foreign exchange which will be made available to the particular importer for the specified product.

Mr. Chambers lamented that "we have been drawing down our strategic reserve of foreign exchange merely to affect an alien and not totally desirable lifestyle typified by inessential imported goods."

As an example he cited overseas travel which rose from \$61.6 million in 1977 to \$374m in 1982 and \$233.3m at the end of July 1983.

Business travel rose from \$26.1m in 1977 to \$53.9m in 1982 and \$30m up to July this year. Overseas education from \$29.6m in 1977 to \$91.6m last year and \$43.2m up to July this year.

Wines, brandy, whisky, sweet biscuits, packaged rice, apples and grapes registered similar increases over the previous years, the Prime Minister said.

Those examples were by no means exhaustive and that the pattern of sharp increases could be seen on other items hardly essential to the health and well being of nationals, he said.

"This virtual haemorrhage of foreign exchange continues despite the tightening of credit availability in the banking system and the fiscal measures in the 1983 Budget."

Mr. Chambers said direct measures of control are required to supplement fiscal and monetary measures to further discourage the preference for buying foreign goods and services.

All was not that bad, however, as the Prime Minister indicated that the country's foreign reserves may still appear to be at a comfortable level.

In announcing the austerity plan, the Prime Minister said the measures will not apply to the purchase of foreign exchange for payment of services such as foreign travel, professional and technical fees, remittance of dividends and payments of insurance premia.

Those holding approved Forms EC 1 for such transactions should not take them back to the Central Bank for re-validation.

The Central Bank, however, has set up new guidelines as to the amount of foreign exchange to be allocated annually for specific goods and services and within those ceilings, the amount to be made available to individual applicants.

The primary aim, Mr. Chambers said, is to use our strategic foreign reserves to strengthen our economy.

Bank Exchange Curbs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Oct 83 p 3

[Article by Jeff Hackett]

[Text]

THE CENTRAL Bank moved yesterday to stem the rapid outflow of foreign exchange in the light of decreased petroleum foreign earnings and the \$1.2 billion drop in foreign reserves, so far, this year.

Importers must now have their applications for foreign exchange approved by the Central Bank before they can place firm orders with foreign suppliers.

They will also have to apply on a new form — Form EC O — with the Bank authorising the amount of foreign exchange that will be made available. Importers, in addition, will also have to apply to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

The Bank also cancelled all approved foreign exchange applications and letters of credit for goods where outstanding amounts of foreign currency remain to be purchased.

The Bank, in a Press statement, noted that the country "has been losing foreign exchange at an alarmingly rapid rate" this year.

"Despite the marked slowdown in economic activity, net sales of foreign exchange to the non-oil private sector during the first nine months of the year were 18.5 per cent higher than for the comparable period last year," the Bank pointed out.

The Bank further disclosed that coupled with the decline in oil revenues at the end of September the bank's official reserves stood at \$5.5 billion — a drop of 18 per cent from January 1.

The Bank said that under current procedures importers apply for foreign exchange after orders had been firmly placed and goods already shipped.

"In other words, the demand for foreign exchange and the pattern of its distribution mainly reflect commercial interests which do not necessarily coincide with the national interest," the Bank added.

The Bank stated that the new procedures were:

- Residents wishing to obtain foreign exchange for the purchase of imported goods will first have to apply on a new form (Form EC O) to the Central Bank which will authorise in advance the amount of foreign exchange which will be made available to the particular importers for the specified product. This application to the Central Bank must be approved before firm orders are placed with foreign suppliers.

- The approved Form EC O, together with any other relevant documents (e.g. import licence, shipping documents, customs documents) is submitted to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs in support of an application for foreign exchange on the Form EC 1.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs is not authorised to approve sale of foreign exchange on Form EC 1 in the absence of an approved Form EC O or for an amount in excess of that approved on the Form EC O.

- The importer presents both the approved Form EC O and the approved Form EC 1 to the commercial banks when seeking to purchase foreign exchange. Commercial banks are not authorised to sell foreign exchange in the absence of an approved Form EC O or for an amount in excess of that approved on the Form EC O.

The Bank, in informing importers that all Forms EC 1 and letters of credit approved on or before yesterday for the purchase of foreign exchange had been rendered invalid where outstanding amounts of currency remains to be purchased, stated that these documents must

be returned to the Bank for revalidation through the process of application on a Form EC O.

The Bank further pointed out that the new procedures "do not ally to the purchase of foreign exchange in respect of payment for services such as foreign travel, professional and technical fees, remittance of dividends and payments of insurance premia."

The new forms are available at the Exchange Control offices in Port of Spain, San Fernando, Scarborough and at all commercial banks throughout the country.

Businessmen's Protest

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Oct 83 p 3

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

JOINING the list of groups protesting government's decision to recall import licences is the Small Business Federation.

"We applied since June last for an import licence and an ECI form" said the SBF's interim president Sydney Braithwaite, "but we have not even got the courtesy of a reply from the Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr Desmond Cartey."

The new small business group, which broke away from the Small Business Association (SBA) earlier this year and now has more members than its rival, was relying on the seasonal demand for imported hams and Christmas trees.

Licence requests for hams were also recalled by the Ministry in response to the Supermarkets Association's requests. This association protested earlier this week.

"But, if only the Ministry had given us an answer when we applied so long ago we would have known what to do," said Mr Braithwaite whose group wanted to import 600,000 pounds of hams.

The federation, whose membership is now quoted as over 300 by its president, has also failed to receive a response from the Industry and Commerce Ministry over its application to import Christmas trees, also made out months ago.

Things are not going too well for the SBA either. One of the two senior officers has reportedly resigned. There are financial problems and no way can be found to create funding through trade.

The federation's president, Mr Braithwaite, crying foul over the government's recall of licences, said that this demonstrated the Commerce and Industry Minister's lack of initiative.

"Importing hams, a traditional Christmas fare, would not have interfered with local producers," he said, pointing out to the different quality of the imported hams and the inability of Trinidad farmers to satisfy the demand of the market in the coming months.

GUARDIAN Criticism

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Oct 83 p 1

[Unsigned "Comment": "No Mr Prime Minister, No"]

[Text] NO thinking person in Trinidad and Tobago today will take umbrage at Government taking firm and forceful action to curb unnecessary imports. In fact there is no denying the fact that the population is in need of shock treatment to shake it out of its chronic lethargy.

But the method of prescribing the shock treatment as outlined by our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in his speech to Parliament last Friday can have only one consequence, CHAOS. Why? Because unless the policy is modified and modified intelligently and quickly, business in Trinidad and Tobago will grind to a halt, with all the attendant problems of massive retrenchment and increasing shortages of essential goods and services; something for which the population of this ultra-tolerant country is unlikely to stand.

Bottlenecks

It is not normal for us, as a responsible newspaper, either to make sweeping statements or sound alarms unnecessarily, but action of the kind taken by Government will inevitably lead to bottlenecks the likes of which we have never before experienced.

If action of the kind was being contemplated, would it not have been better for Government to have come up with something less dramatic and more carefully thought out? A scheme which would embrace either disallowing or putting on a strict quota, non-essential items, e.g. foreign clothing of various kinds, some imported liquor, luxury foods, foreign assembled motor vehicles etc., as well as products similar to those produced here while at the same time allowing essential imports to enter the Country on the same basis as before.

Think of all the time and paper work that would have been saved in the process!

Even worse than this is the element of retroactivity which has been introduced into the edict. Retroactive legislation is inevitably bad legislation, but the extra time which will be taken to re-validate licences already issued will only serve to emphasise the serious nature of this FAUX PAS by the Government.

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce is certainly not noted for the speed at which it processes import licences in normal times. Now we have another Government agency, the Central Bank, which can hardly be geared to take care of literally hundreds of thousands of applications (in triplicate) with which they are largely unfamiliar, entering the fray. Isn't it justifiable for us as a responsible newspaper to hazard a guess as to what the result may be? We hope that the world CHAOS in this context will not prove to be an understatement.

Congestion

A serious consequence of this situation is that there will be further congestion at an already congested Port with the predictable consequences of more rent and increased interest charges on imported goods, leading to much higher costs to the consumer.

The impracticability of it all is in no way lessened when one has sight of the infamous form ECO which requires the importer--INTER ALIA--to provide the following on each request for an import licence:

- (a) There are 14 items to be completed
- (b) Section 1 is Headlined--ONE FORM PER ITEM
- (c) 13. Value of applicant's imports of item for year to date TT\$
- (d) 14. Value of applicant's imports of item in previous year TT\$.
- (e) Section 11 Declaration by Ministry of Industry and Commerce stating that form EC 0 was seen by them before approval of Form EC 1.

No, Mr. Prime Minister, we are at one with you in your endeavour to prescribe painful surgery to a people who have over-indulged themselves and become fat, lazy, and in need of a severe cure, but a responsible surgeon uses his knife with discrimination. He moves with care, and when his patient is critically ill as this one so obviously is, he first consults his ablest colleagues (and in this case leaders of business and labour) before he elects to perform the operation.

Call for Bank-Government Coordination

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text]

NATIONAL Productivity Council (NPC) has called for greater co-ordination between Central Bank and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce regarding new procedures to purchase foreign exchange.

Dr. Ralph Henry, Chairman of the Council, underscored this need yesterday when members met the media to report on the Council's activities.

Dr. Henry said NPC was aware of the need for serious budgeting of exchange, but that the present concept lacked co-ordination and "a grasp of total perspective" except that there was a great leakage of money out of the country.

"The situation leaves a lot to be desired where the format of the procedure is concerned, and we are well aware of the chaos it can mean if it is not handled properly.

"The state sector is apparently not fully informed of what is involved in importing, so there is still a need for more co-ordination between Central Bank and the Ministry of Industry.

"The public must be clear about what is involved in the procedures: What is required, from where, what is on the Negative List -- to be released at the end of the year. They must have a total understanding of the nitty-gritty issues."

He reiterated that the entire country could grind to a halt, business-wise, if the matter was not expeditiously handled.

PAPERWORK

The Council looked at the issue and also suggested that the format of purchasing foreign exchange should be reorganised to reduce the

great amount of paperwork entailed in the new procedure.

Dr. Henry explained that with the new method, applications would have to be made for every single item brought into the country, "right down to the screws and other parts, if it is a car."

This would mean thousands of applications, literally tons of paperwork, all spiralling the cost of production. In a bid to keep these costs down, the Council has suggested use of a computer to handle data efficiently and cope with the needs of importers and manufacturers.

"In the past there has been no really serious budgeting of foreign exchange; this is something the Council has agreed should have been done a long time ago; but the format needs further thought. Also, State procedures in commerce costs, and the money has to come from somewhere, we would like to see needless expenditure eliminated," Dr. Henry said.

The Council, which was set up by Government in July 1982, has also been looking into the operations of several government departments in an attempt to identify constraints limiting productivity and remove them.

Since its first report was released late last year — two more have followed — the Council, according to Dr. Henry, has moved away from just making recommendations and now works more toward touching base with critical organisations and identifying problem areas.

"We cannot point to any specific number of things and say that we have contributed totally to improving productivity there, but the results are present in certain areas. Better coordination has been fostered by the Ministries of Industry and Agriculture, for instance, and we have also prodded the situation on exports and asked for reports on the performance of DEWD."

AT FULL STRIDE

Dr. Henry added that while the Council did not have adequate staff, it intended to move at full stride over the next few months to set certain criteria for improving productivity at all levels.

To do this, liaison was established with a number of departments, one of these being the Industry and Commerce Ministry. In the case of the latter, emphasis falls on improving its internal functionings and its external efficiency." This would include its dealings with the private sector and other categories apart from the Ministry's industrial policies which is one particular area the Council feels has not been as dynamic as it could be.

A pilot project to raise the level of productivity at industrial estates will also be (first) implemented at Macoya. Through discussions with the Trinidad Manufacturers' Association and several unions, the Council will introduce a programme which will include the facilities of day care centres for employees' children, for sport and also place an emphasis on safety measures.

Where the traffic and transportation problems are concerned, Dr. Henry, explained the Council will be holding discussions with the Public Transport Service Corporation. Specific among the suggestions will be the development of new routes throughout the country.

He added that the critical problems on the Port would also be under scrutiny over the next month since a smooth operation was vital to determine the cost of living and competitiveness in the business sector.

The Council, Dr. Henry said, would be mounting a public awareness programme including forums and discussions at all levels, "so that people can see what they are doing to aid productivity and work against it as well."

Bank's Assessment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Jeff Hackett]

[Text] CENTRAL BANK Governor Victor Bruce said yesterday that the new foreign exchange measures were working smoothly and that the Bank had already implemented some suggestions from the business community.

Mr Bruce, speaking at a Press conference at the Bank, also stated that "there has been no evidence of any serious disruption of business activity."

The Central Bank Governor further made it quite clear that "the interest of Caricom will be taken up in the administrative arrangements."

The Press Conference was obviously in response to the furore by businessmen over the new measures.

Mr Bruce who faced the Press with Dr Uric Bobb, Deputy Governor, and Mr Henry Jeffers, Director of Foreign Exchange Control, stressed that "the administration of the country's foreign exchange reserves is one of the fundamental purposes for which the Central Bank was established."

Dealing specifically with newly introduced and controversial Form EC-0, Mr Bruce charged that "several persons and organisations have rushed forward with ill-informed comment, apparently not even bothering to pause for a moment to study and understand the procedure both in terms of its mechanics and its objectives."

The Central Bank Governor dealt with the mechanics of the new system and pointed out that the Bank recognises that initially a degree of flexibility is necessary in the administration of the system in order to minimise dislocation of business activity.

"For example," he explained, "the Bank has in place a system for giving priority to applications for goods already landed or 'on the water.' Our aim is to process applications in respect to goods already landed within a maximum of 48 hours if adequate documentation is processed."

He added:

"We have met with representatives of trade associations and encouraged them to submit suggestions as to how the system can be streamlined. We have, indeed, already implemented some suggestions which do not compromise our basic objective."

Dr Bobb explained that in respect of goods already in the country the Bank was prepared at this time to waive some of the documentary evidence importers might require and would settle for a statutory declaration.

Dr Bobb, who said that he met with a number of business associations, enumerated a number of the suggestions which were implemented.

Ministry Briefed

Some dealt with information required on the form, one of them dealing with the imports to date for 1983 and imports for 1982.

Dr Bobb said that in cases where goods had already arrived in the country, in the interest of quick processing, this requirement would be waived and the information would have to be supplied at a later date.

Mr. Bruce said that "the requirement to identify each imported item is fundamental to a system geared to limiting imports of certain items."

He added:

"The Bank has clearly identified a list of items for which the amount of foreign exchange to be made available will be lower than actual expenditure in the recent past."

But Mr. Bruce pointed out that "we will not divulge the details of the items currently subject to control, since such disclosure can severely compromise our objective of conserving foreign exchange and ensuring its availability for such activities as will strengthen the productive base and export competitiveness of the economy."

Replying to a question, Mr Bruce said that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce was briefed on the new measures.

And in response to another question, he said:

"I would say categorically, there has been no evidence of any disruption (of business activity). The pace was slow on Monday morning but the pace has increased tremendously and I would say the system is working smoothly now."

Both Mr. Bruce and Dr Bobb emphasised that they would welcome suggestions.

Warning of Threat to Trade

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Oct 83 p 1

[Text] THE TRINIDAD and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce has warned that the newly introduced system for importation of items could bring trade in the country to a halt.

The Chamber has pointed out that there is need for changing the system of documentation announced by Prime Minister George Chambers last week which introduced a new form EC-0.

A release from the Chamber stated yesterday that following the introduction by the Central Bank of the new measures the Chamber had submitted in writing to Mr. Victor Bruce, the Governor of the Central Bank, its comments and recommendations.

The Chamber is calling for "the simplification and reduction of the documentation requested in the new Form EC-0 which, if it remains unchanged, would bring trade in the country to a halt."

Regarding the immediate implementation of the system, the Chamber has recommended that "consideration should be given to importers having goods presently on the docks, at the airport and on the water and suggested that the Form EC-0 in these circumstances be waived.

The Chamber has pledged to support any "reasonable and practical method of conserving the country's foreign exchange and any attempt to curb the depletion of the country's foreign reserves."

TTMA-Bank Talks

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Oct 83 pp 4, 13

[Text]

THE Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) is to hold further talks with the Central Bank on modification of design and layout of the form EC - O and existing procedures for importation of goods into the country.

In a statement outlining new guidelines by the Central Bank on the new foreign exchange control procedures to its members, the TTMA said that it supports the objectives of the Government to conserve foreign reserves of the country.

On October 7, Prime Minister George Chambers announced the new exchange control procedures which would apply to all imports in respect of which payment had not been effected on or before that date.

At the request of TTMA, the director of exchange control of the Central Bank attended a meeting of the management committee of the TTMA and discussed the new procedures.

It was that TTMA would submit a presentation on the new system to the governor of the Central Bank.

The TTMA appointed a small committee which met for four days to develop proposals, using systems analysis and computer models, proposals were developed and submitted to representatives of both the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance on October 13.

The follow-up meeting took place on October 14, with senior representatives of the Central Bank, including the deputy governor, Dr. Euric Bobb.

The proposals included:

- Modifications to the revalidation requirements.
- Modifications to the design and layout of form EC - O.
- Modification to existing procedures for importation of goods into the country.

As a result of their discussion the TTMA now wishes to advise its members and the general public that on the advice of the Central Bank the following procedures should obtain in the current system.

• There will be one form per 6-digit CCCN number.

• The EC - O could be made out to cover projected imports right through to December 1984. It is not

necessary to make out an EC - O form for every single shipment in the case of continuous imports of an item.

• The EC - O form is to be filled out and used only when dealing in visible goods. All services and invisibles e.g. — Royalties, dividends, travel etc., do not need an ECO or revalidation of any EC - 1's.

• Items 6 and 9 on the form relating to SITC number and price per unit are permanently waived.

• Item 12 which relates to the date of importation should now be filled in with the approximate date of first importation, in the case of a form covering multiple shipments.

• In respect of items 13 and 14 which relates to the value of imports for the last year and the current year to date, Central Bank has agreed that supporting documentary evidence need not be attached to the form however, importers are forewarned that the information has to be made available on request.

Immediate revalidation exercise:

In the case where goods already cleared for which form EC - 1's were already approved on or before October 7, these transactions would not require the filling out of an EC - O.

In addition, the approved EC - 1's would not require revalidation.

• In the case where goods have not been cleared through customs but have been shipped on or before October 7, and have approved EC - 1's; these EC - 1's would have to be revalidated and an ECO should be made out.

In presentation for revalidation, the Central Bank advises that the importer should bring in the original approved EC - 1 and a photocopy. He should also bring documentary proof such as bills of lading, airwaybills, parcel post cards etc., showing date of shipment.

In filling these EC - O's the Central Bank advises that they will waive items 13 and 14 on the form. These transactions will be given top priority.

• In respect of letters of credits established on or before October 7, these transactions will be treated in a similar manner to the above point No. 2.

• It should be noted that lines 13 and 14 should only be filled out when

the first EC - O is submitted where multiple shipments are concerned.

• In the case of machine spares where there are numerous CCCN numbers the Central Bank has agreed to study the TTMA's proposals of combining these spares as a single item under a special category number.

Further to the above, the TTMA wishes to advise its members that although according to Central Bank it is not mandatory to have an approved ECO before applying for an import or ministers licence, we recommend that the EC - O be viewed as the logical step one in the import procedure.

The Central Bank representatives agree to examine in close detail, the TTMA's submission and to hold further discussions with the TTMA in respect of modifications to design and layout of the form EC - O and existing procedures for importation of goods into the country.

The TTMA supports the objectives of the government of Trinidad and Tobago to conserve the foreign exchange reserves of the country. Further the TTMA appreciates the continuing efforts of the Central Bank and in particular the staff of the foreign exchange department in ensuring the smooth introduction of the EC - O procedure.

CSO: 3298/127

CHAMBERS THREATENS HOUSE WALKOUT IN DEBATE OVER FUNDS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by John Eabb]

[Text] IN an exchange tiff with the Opposition yesterday in Parliament, Prime Minister George Chambers said there was nothing to prevent the Government from walking out of the House.

Opposition Leader, Mr. Basdeo Panday, was at the time criticising the Government for its handling of recommendations in the report of the Salaries Review Commission.

Speaking in the debate on a Government motion to transfer sums totalling \$184,017,212 from various heads of expenditure, Mr Panday had charged the Government with discourtesy. He accused the Government of changing the specifications of the post--Chairman of the Commission--without consulting him.

Prime Minister Chambers rose from his seat and noted that the practice had developed in the House, by the Opposition, to have a second Budget debate whenever a Finance Committee report, or supplementary, or variation of appropriation was down for discussion.

He told the Speaker: "I wish to draw your attention, and ask for your ruling on Standing Order 69.

"I am not suggesting that the Leader of the Opposition should not be allowed some flexibility, but the debate in this House has taken some unfortunate turns, and I will not permit that any longer. I will not permit it because if I am not satisfied, the Government will leave the House. There is nothing to prevent the Government from walking out," he added.

Opposition members, including Mr. Kelvin Ramnath, who joined in the verbal exchange asked the Prime Minister if the House was his, that he would not permit anything.

Acting Speaker Cyril Rogers, took control of the sitting and read out Standing Order 69. He subsequently ruled that Mr. Panday was relevant.

No Increase

Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Anthony Jacelon, in moving the motion for the transfer of funds explained that it did not mean an increase in the estimated expenditure for 1983.

Areas to which additional money was being allocated included \$13,438,977 for implementing recommendations of the Malaries Review Commission; \$2 million to engage private accounting firms to audit the accounts of State enterprises; \$2,583,336 for allowances to postal agents, auxiliaries, guards and drivers in the postal service; \$21 million to be split up in \$1.4 million for CARDI, \$2.5 million for farmers' pigs, and \$18 million as subsidy for farmers.

Also, \$1.8 million for the Council of Legal Education; \$13.1 million to meet expenditure for the non-academic qualified staff at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine; \$2.7 million for the training of teachers; \$1.5 million for the maintenance of the Salvatori Building.

During the debate in which two Opposition members--Mr. Panday and Miss Pamela Nicholson (Tobago East)--spoke, the Ministry of Information came in for severe criticism. Both members suggested that the ministry be closed down.

Mr. Panday branded the Ministry "a disgrace," and accused it of promoting PNM propaganda, while exercising a conscious exclusion of Opposition views.

CSO: 3298/127

ALLIANCE SEEKS GREATER INDEPENDENCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Oct 83 p 3

[Text]

NATIONAL ALLIANCE — the Opposition group of parties — in a policy paper labelled "The Reform of Local Government," has submitted a number of proposals seeking to give Local Government authorities full independence in financial, technical and administrative matters.

As examples the Alliance feels that all special work projects ought to come under Local Government. Likewise health, sanitation and environment, as well as the construction, maintenance and repair of all roads, bridges and public buildings in their respective areas.

The Opposition group charged that Government's draft policy paper on Local Government dismissed any intention of reforming the system. Instead, the Alliance said, the Government document was seeking to construct and legitimise an alternative structure of local authority, based upon the village and community councils.

But it reminded that the village and community councils were not, nor are they proposed to be democratically-elected bodies.

Local Government authorities ought to be the local agents of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), with powers to institute water collection, distribution and maintenance in their particular areas.

According to the Alliance, all special works projects should come under the control, management and determination of the Local Government bodies, subject only, in the short-term, to approval of technical plans and performance of such projects by the Ministry of Works.

FULL JURISDICTION

It has also recommended that Local Government authorities be given

full jurisdiction. They ought not to be subjected to any ministerial veto.

The Local Government bodies should also deal with health, sanitation and environment, and should be given the responsibility for the construction, maintenance and repair of all roads, bridges and public buildings in their respective areas.

The Alliance also calls for the abolition of the present system of financing Local Government bodies.

It urges that the Local Government authorities be given statutory power to raise revenue through taxes, fees and licences from sources as land, water and house rates, liquor and business licence fees, vehicle rates and licence fees, paid by citizens and businesses living and operating within their respective areas.

Also, a fixed percentage — say 33 per cent — of income taxes collected by Central Government should be redistributed back to the Local Government authorities in proportions corresponding to their demographic size.

The financial powers given to any Local Government authority, says the Alliance, should be subject to suspension by Parliament for a period not exceeding one year if, on the advice of the Auditor General, it was found that the financial affairs of that body were not in proper order.

Just as important as financial independence to the reform of the Local Government system, the Alliance recommends, is technical and administrative independence.

ALLIANCE CLAIMS CONTROL OVER MOST OF NATION'S AREA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Oct 83 p 3

[Text]

OPPOSITION Leader Basdeo Panday last night called for reorganisation of the society "to create new social institutions which will provide the mechanisms" for unity.

In a political broadcast, Mr Panday said that the people at all levels of the society "must be encouraged to innovate and create, to experiment with new ideas on how to promote and sustain total well being of all our people."

He claimed that the result of the last Local Government elections showed that over seven-eighths of the territorial land space of Trinidad and Tobago was controlled by the Alliance which he said left the PNM "in opposition."

"It is the PNM oligarchy which is in opposition," he declared.

Mr Panday said: "No matter how difficult the task, we shall not flinch from our duty of doing all in our power to improve the quality of life of those we represent."

"In order to accomplish this task, we must, as a matter of urgency, reorganise the society so as to create new social institutions which will provide the mechanisms for uniting our peoples."

Stating that no amount of talk would change the attitudes of the people, he said, "We must set up the social and political institutions which will encourage and promote these new attitudes."

Mr Panday drew attention to the plans of the National Alliance for a new organisational structure for the Alliance in relation to the six counties under its control, aimed at devolving power and decentralising decision making and control.

The councillors would be required to organise community councils, he explained, which eventually he hoped would become dispute solving mechanisms aimed also at resolving personal disputes instead of going to court.

He said the community councils would be able to provide the most comprehensive data for "a proper electoral list, data on unemployment, housing needs and other matters."

It is intended to appoint shadow councillors where the Alliance is not represented to do the organisation and representation.

Mr Panday said: "To ensure that the people's problems and

needs are brought to the highest level, we propose to further co-ordinate the work of the districts at the county level under the leadership of the parliamentary representative whose constituency is in the particular county."

He added: "It is my considered view that this nation cannot move forward with half the population going in one direction and the other half going in another direction."

"It is only when we unite the entire nation to move in a common direction can it be said that there is national consciousness and a national will."

"We are of the view that with the kind of organisation we are trying to build we shall mobilise much of our vast human resources that have been alienated for so long."

"I refuse to believe that our people are lazy, corrupt, indolent and unimaginative, as some of our leaders would have us believe."

TEAM TO GO TO ANTIGUA TO CHECK GOODS; SCHEME CRITICIZED

Joint Agreement on Probe

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Jeff Hackett]

[Text] A TEAM from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs may do an on the spot check in Antigua later this month of factories suspected of flouting the Caricom rules.

This was agreed on during talks yesterday between Mr. Desmond Cartey, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and Antiguan Trade Minister Hugh Marshall at Riverside Plaza.

Mr. Marshall, who returned home yesterday afternoon, came to discuss the question of licences for products from Antigua which exporters from that country complained had not yet been processed.

Mr. Cartey said that there were, in fact, 15 licences under query because his Ministry was still not satisfied that the products had met with the Caricom rules of origin.

He added that these products involved household appliances and electronic products. Under the Caricom rules of origin, these products are supposed to have at least 20 per cent local value added.

Mr. Cartey explained that his proposal will first have to go before Cabinet this week for approval and once this was given the team would leave within ten to 14 days.

The Minister said that the team would ascertain whether the products under query were not, in fact, extra-regional products.

Mr. Cartey also revealed that Mr. Marshall wanted to know how the new measures relating to the selling of foreign exchange announced by Prime Minister George Chambers last week would affect his country.

Mr. Cartey disclosed also that he had received a telegram from the St. Lucia Government requested similar dialogue on the question of licensing.

Meanwhile, a Cana report from St. John's, Antigua, quoted Mr. Marshall as saying that Antiguan manufacturers had informed him that unless they received licenses from Trinidad and Tobago for their products, they would have no alternative but to close operations.

Working Relationship

But Mr. Cartey pointed out that one local manufacturer of refrigerators and stoves had in fact laid off about 40 per cent of its staff.

According to the Cana report, the Antigua Government called on the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing sector to take cognisance of the fact that both governments had a long working relationship.

And the government official went on to threaten retaliatory action against this country such as withdrawing support for the designation of BWIA as Antigua and Barbuda's national carrier on international routes.

The Cana report stated that Marshall said Antigua and Barbuda had found no difficulty in designating the Trinidad Governments' airline BWIA as this country's national carrier for the London, New York and Toronto routes, and the private sector in Trinidad and Tobago should regard the situation as a "give-and-take" relationship.

Prior to his departure to Trinidad and Tobago, Marshall was expected to meet with local manufacturers for briefings on the status of their operations and to name a delegation to put forward the country's case for freeing-up of the trade links with Trinidad and Tobago.

Marshall favoured retaliatory action against Trinidad and Tobago and felt that any steps to be taken by government should be in an area of strength, such as withdrawing support for the designation of BWIA as Antigua and Barbuda's national carrier on international air routes.

"I cannot but partly agree with some kind of retaliatory measure at this time, but the nature of the retaliatory measure does not necessarily have to be in the area of trade, we must look for our strongest point," Marshall said.

"We have just designated BWIA as our national carrier on the international air routes, and we could be equally selfish as the Trinidadian manufacturers and withdraw our support in that area," Marshall said.

His comments followed a suggestion by the Antigua Trades and Labour Union that government should take retaliatory steps against products originating from Trinidad and Tobago, in order to protect local jobs.

The union said Trinidad and Tobago's licencing system was adversely affecting jobs in Antigua, with some factories closing operations and others being forced to reduce their staff. These factories include the Antigua Appliance Industries Limited, which manufactures refrigerators and stoves, and Electronic Technology International, which manufactures television sets.

During discussions, Marshall said he will propose the appointment of a joint committee to investigate the operations of factories in Antigua.

Economic development Minister, Lester Bird, last month submitted to the Trinidad and Tobago Government, a document produced by Organisations of Eastern Caribbean States, (OECS), experts, verifying the manufacturing capability of local industries.

The OECS experts also had verified that the goods were meeting the value added criteria to qualify them for duty-free treatment in any of the other 12 Caricom States.

Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers have accused certain Antigua industries of breaching the so-called area of origin criteria that determine whether goods made within the region qualify for duty free treatment in Caricom.

Blast From Manufacturers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 13 Oct 83 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

A TOTAL ban on all Caricom goods entering this country has been called for by Mr. Matthew Gonsalves, president of the Trinidad and Tobago Garment Manufacturers Association.

He also said that Government's announcement about sending an investigative team to Antigua is a complete waste of time, and that soon Trinidad and Tobago workers may have to leave here and look for jobs in the Caricom region because there won't be any here.

"Trinidad and Tobago is the only market these places have" said Mr. Gonsalves yesterday as he called upon Government to take urgent steps to protect workers here.

He said that Caricom countries do not buy from Trinidad because workers in the islands produce goods cheaply through low wages.

"What we pay our workers for one day on the job is what is paid in those countries for a week's labour," the garment manufacturer declared.

He said if Caricom rules are being flouted, then the advance announcement of a probe by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce will simply alert those involved.

"Obviously, then, the on-the-spot check in Antigua will reveal nothing," he stressed.

Mr. Gonsalves referred to a report in yesterday's "Guardian" which concerned Jamaica's anxiety over Trinidad and Tobago's tighter import measures.

Jamaica's National Export Corporation has asked for clarification over Trinidad and Tobago's Caricom trade measures, pointing out that they could seriously affect Jamaica's Christmas trade with Trinidad.

"The fact is, said Mr. Gonsalves, "We haven't been selling anything to Jamaica for years. We have been buying. The Government has to consider who comes first, this country or the Caricom region who cannot find any significant market except Trinidad."

BRIEFS

PNM TOBAGO OFFICERS--TOBAGO Party Group No. 1 of the ruling PNM held its election of officers recently. The following officers were elected: chairman-Frank James, vice chairman-Beatrice Julien; secretary-Maurice Joseph; Asst. secretary-Shelly-Ann Andrews; elections officer-George Lezama; public relations officer-Morell Des Vignes; treasurer-Neville Mirandar; education officer-Harriet Moore; youth officer-Patrick Arnold; committee members; Christina Campbell, and Amelia Alfred. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Oct 83 p 13]

OPPOSITION BUDGET TEAM--THE OPPOSITION has established 14 working committees consisting of Members of Parliament and the research unit of the Leader of the Opposition's office to formulate proposals on the 1984 Budget which is to be submitted to Parliament soon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr Basdeo Panday, said that the committees had been formed in order to forge a genuine national consensus to deal with this country's economic problems. "Because of the fundamental fiscal crisis in which the State has found itself," a release on the topic states, "and the recent submission of the Demas three year multi-sectoral plan, this budget looms more important than previous budgets." The Opposition members believe that the 1984 Budget will be "a serious attempt to redirect our economic with appropriate economic prescriptions." [Text] [Port of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Oct 83 p 1]

PANDAY ON VENEZUELA TIES--SAN FERNANDO: BASDEO PANDAY, Opposition Leader, is moving to establish a friendship association with Venezuela. The idea, stated a release from Mr. Panday's office yesterday was "in pursuance of his conviction that Trinidad and Tobago should develop closer relations with Latin America. "Venezuela is our closest Latin American neighbour", said the release. Mr. Panday will be in Kenya later this month to attend the 29th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference and opportunity would be taken to discuss with various African leaders the necessity of forming similar friendship societies. During his stay abroad, Mr. Panday will visit Mauritius and India where he will meet various leaders and intend as well to discuss matters of common interest. In India, he will specially talk with leaders and members of the recently formed India-Trinidad and Tobago Friendship Society, based in Delhi with a view to establishing a similar society in Trinidad and Tobago. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Oct 83 p 14]

FEED PRODUCTION--THERE has been an increase in the local production of all types of livestock feed during the first quarter of this year. According to the Statistical Bulletin just released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO), domestic production of animal and poultry feed for the first quarter of the year amounted to 65.4 million kg. The feed was valued at \$41.9 million. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Oct 83 p 4]

NEW TV CHANNELS--THE new Channels 9 and 14 of Trinidad and Tobago Television will be officially launched next Sunday by the Minister of State Enterprises, Mr. Ronald Williams, in a ceremony at Television House beginning at 5.30 p.m. A TTT statement yesterday said the highlight of the launching however, will be a one-hour cultural extravaganza called "together," being produced by Aubrey Adams. More than 150 artistes will take part in the show, including Iscott Casablanca, the Police Band, Clypsonian King Austin, singers Clarence Johnson, Joselyn Sealey and Ken Oxley, the Julia Edwards Dance Co., the Caribbean School of Dance, the Trinidad Folk Performing Company, the Trinidad School of Indian Dance, Doon Ramsundar and Los Indian Musicians, guitarist Sandra Scott-Blair and Pat Fortune, Linda Lake's School of Dance, Movement Choir, Maurice Connor and the Ambakaila Singers from the Trinidad Folk Performing Company. TTT Chairman Mr. Nicky Inniss, and General Manager Mr. Roy Watts will also speak at the launching. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 16 Oct 83 p 23]

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